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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

NATION



A fast-moving wildfire kills 19 firefighters in Arizona. ➤ **PAGE 15**

WORLD



Thousands thronged the streets of Egypt in a bid to force out President Morsi. ➤ **PAGE 16**

LIFE & STYLE



Supreme Court victories draw big crowds to gay pride parades. ➤ **PAGE 19**

High Court stops proceedings vs Ogumoro, others. PAGE 2
Sources: Two applicants back out from CPA post. PAGE 3

Flores, MVA up in arms over capping of highway medians

» **DPW says it was due to safety, maintenance concerns**

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Mayor's Office and the Marianas Visitors Authority are up in arms over the Department of Public Works' capping of the road medians in front of the Saipan World Resort in Susupe and in front of the Mobil gas station in Chalan Kiya.

DPW said, however, that it is just doing its job and that cementing the surface of road medians is both a safety and maintenance concern.

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores wrote DPW Secretary Martin Sablan yesterday, requesting the latter to "temporarily

See MEDIANS on Page 4

MARK RABAGO

The freshly capped road median in front of the Mobil gas station in Chalan Kiya. ➤



ED BUCKINGHAM'S NON-ARREST AT AIRPORT

'Unintentional breakdown in communication, lack of protocol'

» **Authorities do not want repeat of incident when Fitial, other fugitives return**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Communication breakdown, lack of proper protocols, and lack of training among local law enforcement agencies led to these agencies' inability to detain for questioning or arrest former attorney general Edward Buckingham at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport despite his high-profile status as fugitive from justice, when he returned to the CNMI on May 28.

"We do not believe that it was intentional," Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas said in a news briefing on Capital Hill yesterday morning on the results of an Office

See PROTOCOL on Page 4



San Nicolas

House panel frets over 100 FTEs for Executive Branch

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Eloy S. Inos' proposed hiring of 100 full-time equivalents for the entire Executive Branch provided they are "essential" to the delivery of public services is a sticky issue with the House Ways and Means Committee, which is reviewing the governor's proposed fiscal year 2014 budget

of \$123.4 million.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan) said yesterday that the 100 FTEs is "extremely high" a number at a time when the government is trying to limit its expenses to be able to pump more funds into the NMI Retirement Fund and other critical agencies.

Sablan said committee members are suggesting whether the number could be lowered to at

least 25, and could be adjusted later if the need arises.

He said the committee will be bringing this matter up with the governor.

Inos will have a joint leadership forum with lawmakers this afternoon.

Sablan pointed to the governor's 2014 budget submission, wherein Inos included for lawmak-

See HOUSE on Page 4



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Local

Supreme Court stops proceedings vs Ogumoro, others

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has granted the Office of the Attorney General's petition to order the Superior Court to stop the criminal actions filed against former Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogumoro and others related to an alleged conspiracy to shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons.

In granting the OAG's petition for a writ of mandamus on Friday, the Supreme Court

directed the trial court to hold a hearing on the OAG's disqualification from any case involving the alleged co-conspirators of Buckingham.

The cases are stayed or suspended against Ogumoro, Commonwealth Ports Authority police chief Jordon Kosam, former governor Benigno R. Fitial's personal driver and bodyguard Jermaine Joseph W. Nekaifes, CPA Capt. Juan T. Rebuénog, and any other related cases brought by the Office of the Public Auditor pending the trial court's resolution of the OAG disqualification issue.

The high court's order was signed by Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro and associate justices John A. Manglona and Perry B. Inos.

The justices ruled that they have an inadequate record to examine because no disqualification hearing was held.

The justices said that the record sheds no light on what steps the OAG took to screen attorneys representing or consulting on Buckingham's case from those not involved.

"Because deciding the validity of the disqualification requires many facts left unanswered by

the undeveloped record, as well as the parties' agreement that the matter should return to the trial court for further development, we leave the validity of the disqualification for another day," the justices said.

In the OAG's petition, Attorney General Joey P. San Nicolas and assistant attorney general Charles E. Brasington questioned the constitutionality of Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman's order disqualifying the entire OAG from the case without notice or opportunity to respond.

San Nicolas and Brasington

argue, among other things, that Wiseman's order was "clearly erroneous" as proceeding with the disqualification motion without first providing then-acting attorney general Viola Alepuyo or the OAG notice and an opportunity to be heard violates the Office's and the AG's right to due process.

According to court records, OPA legal counsel George Hasselback filed an *ex parte* petition on Aug. 13, 2012, for his appointment as special prosecutor.

On Aug. 17, 2012, Wiseman granted Hasselback's petition, ruling that the court has the inherent authority to appoint a special prosecutor when the

OAG is "disqualified because of a conflict of interest or by some other means."

Wiseman disqualified the OAG because of the OAG Civil Division chief's representation of Buckingham at the arraignment hearing on Aug. 6, 2012.

The order did not explain why the OAG did not receive notice or an opportunity to respond to the petition.

Following the disqualification, Wiseman sealed the *ex parte* order until the conclusion of Hasselback's investigation into the co-conspirators five months later.

The OAG then filed its petition in the Supreme Court.

Fee waiver and retroactive clause sought on PSS rate relief measure

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Because it doesn't have control over the remittance of its allotments, the Public School System believes it should not be penalized for the often delayed payments to vendors such as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., which charges public schools substantial amounts in late fees and charges.

In a joint letter to two House of Representatives committees, Board of Education member Lucy Blanco-Maratita and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., both urged the

Legislature to amend the rate relief bill that is now pending in the lower chamber.

Senate Bill 18-07, SS1 proposes to require CUC to change the water and wastewater rates for public schools from government to commercial. In expressing their support for the bill, however, PSS officials believe that the Legislature can do more to help public schools.

"Although we agree with and support the intent of this bill, additional language needs to be added before final passage because this bill needs to reach further in order to have a solid impact on the financial situation

of PSS," Blanco-Maratita told House lawmakers.

She said there should be some type of "retroactive clause" in the bill so that the disproportionate rates that PSS has been subjected to in the past will be reduced as well.

"In addition, the Legislature needs to carve out a specific waiver of late charges for PSS because of the fact that we do not control our own cash flow and should not be held accountable for delayed allotments from central finance," according to Blanco-Maratita, who chairs the board's legislative and intergovernmental affairs committee.

She pointed out that PSS is a non-revenue generating agency that heavily relies on the budget of the local government.

Just in the first seven months of fiscal year 2013, CUC assessed PSS with late fees amounting to \$250,000. It was estimated that late charges amount to some \$46,000 for PSS every month.

Blanco-Maratita described the rate relief bill as critical to PSS, particularly at this time with the lack of funds to operate schools.

"It is especially crucial for the PSS fiscal year 2013 budget as we have only been allotted \$2.3 million for utilities and, unless the rates are reduced for PSS,

that budgetary allotment will not last through the current fiscal year," she said.

She disclosed that even with the budget that is in place, there is a cash flow issue with the Finance Department and that trickles down to PSS, causing monthly shortfalls to pay vendors.

"PSS needs this bill to pass to allow 'breathing room' with reduced rates because PSS does not have control over the remittance of its monthly allotments. In fact at times, PSS only receives partial transfers from central finance," she added.

Public schools owe the utilities corporation \$4.9 million, representing unpaid obligations since two years ago. Of this

amount, \$900,000 covers seven months of fiscal year 2013 while the rest cover fiscal year 2011 and 2012.

PSS is budgeted for \$2.3 million for utilities in fiscal year 2013. But just for the year's first seven months, PSS has already been billed \$2.5 million. PSS payment for fiscal year 2013 as of April is \$1.6 million.

Currently, PSS pays the government rates on water and wastewater. If S.B. 18-07, SS1 passes, PSS expects to save \$2 million every fiscal year.

In a 12-month period, the system is projected to be billed \$4.5 million for utility consumption. The rate relief bill will reduce this to \$2.5 million yearly.

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Sources: Two applicants back out from CPA post

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Only two individuals made it to the official list of candidates for the next executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority after two potential contenders changed their minds and backed out of the race.

Saipan Tribune learned that the CPA board now has only two choices for the post and the expected selection will be between Diego T. Benavente and John Oliver Gonzales.

Benavente is a long-time legislator and was once the islands' lieutenant governor. Gonzales, meantime, is the current executive director of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library.

Highly placed sources disclosed that the pool of candidates for the position originally contained four names. However, two former lawmakers who

initially signified an interest in the job changed their minds at the last minute.

Former lawmaker Ray Basa, who has formally applied for the post, "surprisingly" withdrew his application, the sources said.

Another former legislator, Manuel Tenorio, reportedly picked up an application form but did not submit it.

When the CPA closed the job announcement on Friday, only Benavente and Gonzales made it to the list.

When asked for comments yesterday, acting CPA executive director Mary-Ann Lizama confirmed that two candidates applied for the post but she declined to name them.

"The application submission for the executive director position has been closed, June 28, 2013. We have two applicants that have submitted and I am currently not at liberty to disclose the candidates," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lizama said the management will now be reviewing the applications to ensure that all the required documents are submitted along with their applications. Once the review process is completed, these will then be forwarded to the CPA board's personnel committee for review.

She said the management will set up the date of interview and will advise the candidates accordingly. The interview panel will be composed of the members of the personnel affairs committee, chaired by Fermin Sakisat.



Benavente

"Once the interview process is completed, the format with which how the candidates are rated will be tallied. We will be announcing the next executive director for CPA once the board

has made their decision," she said.

Lizama is the agency's seaport manager for several

years and has served as acting executive director several times. Despite staff recommendations and support for her to apply for the position, it was learned that Lizama did not turn in an application.



Gonzales

"As to your question if I submitted an application, the answer is no, I did not. Everyone has stated the obvious, that I am doing the job now. I've been asked to submit, employees have asked for me to submit but I have gone through the application process twice before and I am at that point where, as my mom would say, 'If it's for you then you'll get it' and I would like to leave it at that," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Lizama was named interim

executive director after the board fired former executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero last month.

"I think that Team CPA has done well in the past month in ensuring that things move forward and for the best. I remain loyal to the CPA staff, its federal and local partners, our tenants, and to the traveling public and shipping industries, a feat that takes a lot to acquire and maintain," she said, while assuring that "I'll still be around to continue to do right by CPA, even with whoever the next CPA head will be."

» 'Board's choice between Benavente, Gonzales'

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Kilili seeks Inos' help on a planned national tax reform

» Closed-door meeting tackles minimum wage delay, CW extension, Medicaid

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) personally sought Gov. Eloy S. Inos' guidance yesterday on how they could go about protecting the CNMI's interests when a congressional national tax reform proposal gets off the ground.

The delegate and the governor met in the latter's office on Capital Hill yesterday morning to discuss a host of issues, in addition to the national tax reform plan.

"Obviously, the next big thing in Congress is tax reform. We would like for his [Inos] tax policy advisor to start working with us on some of the tax issues that affect us... I need the governor to help me out on this one," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Inos, he said, has extensive background in finance and taxation, being a former Finance secretary, among other things.

"The timing is really great because the governor is a longtime secretary of Finance and knows the implications of tax issues. So I asked him to allow his tax policy advisor and maybe the [present] secretary of Finance to work with us, guide us on what we need to try and include in the tax reform legislation," the delegate added.

The other issues that the delegate and the governor discussed

during their meeting included a scheduled July 11 hearing in Washington, D.C. on S. 1237, an omnibus territorial bill that includes an every-other-year delay in the CNMI's minimum wage increase of 50 cents a year and extensions of both the CW and E2-C programs beyond Dec. 31, 2014.

"I asked the governor if he would be kind enough to share with us his views on S. 1237 that I would bring to the U.S.

Senate committee for the hearing on July 11. The governor agreed," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said the governor just received a copy of S.1237 yesterday, "so he is currently reviewing it."

Demapan reiterated that Inos supports an every-other-year delay in the 50-cent annual minimum wage hike and the extension of the CW and E2-C programs.

Sablan said he and the governor also talked about the proposed restoration of Medicaid eligibility for migrants from the Freely Associated States.

FAS migrants are those from Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia's Pohnpei, Chuuk, Yap, and Kosrae. The CNMI has been hosting hundreds of FAS citizens.



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Man allegedly punches girlfriend for \$20K debt

A woman sustained multiple injuries after her boyfriend allegedly punched her repeatedly during an argument over \$20,000 that she owes him on Thursday night at their apart-

ment in Gualo Rai.

The alleged victim sustained a minor cut on her right shoulder, swelling on top of her head, and bruises in the upper chest.

Qi Wei Wang, 26, was arrest-

ed and taken to Superior Court yesterday on charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace. The court imposed a \$1,250 cash bail.

Police said that Wang also

had superficial wounds on his left chest after he broke a mirror and attempted to slash himself with the broken glass.

Police detective Norman L. Skilling stated in his report

that a police officer responded to an apartment in Gualo Rai after the Department of Public Safety received a call about a disturbance on Thursday at 11:31pm.

Skilling said that preliminary police investigation showed that prior to the beating, Wang and his girlfriend were arguing over \$20,000 that she apparently owed him.

The girlfriend also allegedly owes Wang's roommate \$6,000. She told him that she invested the money in China, escalating their argument.

Wang then allegedly punched her repeatedly and attempted to drag her inside their room. Wang's roommate and his girlfriend's friend prevented him from further beating her up. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

MEDIANS

From Page 1

cease and desist" the project in question.

"It is with grave concern that we write this letter to request that your department immediately cease and desist your department's ongoing road median project. If not for our concern to improve the image and beauty of our visitors, we would not be asking that you give our concern your immediate attention. In our opinion, your ongoing project of capping the road medians with concrete is adding more negatives to our overall effort of promoting our island as a favorite vacation destination. We object to the project; we believe it will make our island ugly," the mayor wrote.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio shared Flores' concern, saying it hinders MVA's beautification campaign.

"In prior discussions with the secretary, we were advised that they were not going to cement any portions of the medians that were being prepped for im-

provements to the street lights. The two medians are fronting the Hopwood Junior High School and the Saipan World Resort. Both medians were recently completed. Granted, cutouts were allowed for trees [but] a significant portion was covered with concrete, preventing any future revegetation. The end product is contrary to what we were lead to believe and our image as a destination that prides itself in its natural and lush beauty," he said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Flores also said they were misled by DPW's recent capping of the medians since they were told otherwise during a previous meeting.

"In our meeting [the week of June 20-24, 2013], you informed us that your department's road median project was merely to remove the existing dirt and replace it with new, fresh dirt. You stated that the scope of the project did not include capping the medians with concrete. As secretary of DPW and as the authority of that office, your statement to us gave us the assurance and hope that we will

work together in beautifying our island," he told Sablan.

The mayor reiterated his and the MVA's stance that capping the medians will hurt their beautification campaign.

"Your department's project, we believe, will harm our image as a tropical island destination; our visitors will only be impressed that our island is not green, colorful, and just like any other city where they come from—concrete landscape."

Sablan said they went ahead with the median capping project because it is a safety concern. He added that while they did pour cement on the medians, they still left some space for MVA and the Saipan Mayor's Office to plant flowers and small plants.

"The medians were placed there to direct traffic and not to be beautified. Although we authorized them to put grass there and small plants, if it hampers the safety of motorists, we will be the first to remove them," he said in a phone interview with *Saipan Tribune*.

He pointed out that flowers and plants, especially if they're

bulky and overgrown, could become a nuisance to motorists.

Aside from being a safety concern, the maintenance of revegetated medians poses a problem, Sablan said. "Federal highway gives us money to build it but didn't give us money for maintenance."

He said that overgrown plants in road medians are more of an eyesore if not maintained.

"So we took it in our own to pour concrete but leave an area there to allow them to plant flowers. But if they don't come out there and maintain them, then I will be the first one to pull them out, you know what I mean... Less maintenance, the prettier it's going to look."

The DPW secretary said the road median in Oleai close to the MVA office will also not be spared from capping. He, however, assured that DPW will "not touch the one in the corner of Oleai."

"We will still pull out the flowers and plants in the medium at Oleai. I have no responsibility to coordinate with the mayor's office and the tourism agency," he added.

HOUSE

From Page 1

ers' consideration "100 full-time equivalents for the entire Executive Branch, which may be filled upon the governor's approval, provided that the FTE shall be restricted to positions that are essential to the delivery of public services."

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said yesterday that this also hinges on the fact that "as long as funding for the personnel expenditures of the Executive Branch does not exceed the appropriation level."

"There is no funding set aside for these 100 slots. Instead, the governor requested for continued reprogramming flexibility to accommodate only those that may be faced with the most critical need. Essentially, this means that

as positions become vacant throughout the year, the governor may determine, based on critical need, which vacancies are non-critical and in turn, reprogram those funds to any of the 100 slots deemed as a highly critical need," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said, "It all comes down to maintaining expenditure within the appropriated resources."

"No additional funds are needed, so lowering the pool of FTEs will not make a difference funding wise," Demapan added.

Sablan, at the same time, said the Ways and Means Committee has identified some \$280,000 that could be redistributed among agencies in fiscal year 2014.

The Ways and Means Committee's goal is to come up with a pre-filed 2014 budget bill this week.

PROTOCOL

From Page 1

of the Attorney General probe into the matter.

No law enforcement agency employee or official was known to have been reprimanded as a result of the incident.

But San Nicolas and OAG chief investigator Ed Cabrera said that law enforcement agencies learned their lessons from the incident.

The incident prompted the implementation of proper protocols, future training, and improved interagency communication.

OAG hopes that there won't be a repeat of the incident when others with outstanding warrants of arrest such as former governor Benigno R. Fitial return to the CNMI.

Law enforcement agencies have already been put on notice, the AG said.

San Nicolas and Cabrera shared yesterday the contents of the OAG's June 20 report to Gov. Eloy S. Inos concerning Buckingham's arrival on Saipan in May. They also answered questions from the media.

The focus of OAG's investigation was to determine why law enforcement agencies at the airport did not detain Buckingham for questioning or arrest despite a pending

bench warrant.

The OAG's chief investigator led the investigation, which included interviews with law enforcement officers from the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Ports Police, the CNMI Customs Services Division, and the Department of Public Safety.

What went wrong?

Cabrera, during the news briefing, said the investigation revealed an "unintentional breakdown in communication."

For one, the Customs Services Division was not provided a copy of the arrest warrant on Buckingham by DPS, CPA, or the Office of the Public Auditor.

Moreover, when customs inspectors asked CPA ports police officers whether they have a copy of an arrest warrant on Buckingham while Buckingham was still at the airport and immediately after he left the premises, CPA couldn't find a copy.

It turned out, according to the results of the OAG investigation, CPA ports police removed old memos posted on their bulletin board at their office at the airport. Among those removed on the bulletin board was a copy of an arrest warrant for Buckingham.

Thus, although CPA and Customs personnel knew that there was an outstanding arrest warrant on Buckingham—based on personal and

secondhand information as well as from the media—they couldn't detain or arrest Buckingham when he was at the airport.

Cabrera said OPA provided DPS with a copy of the arrest warrant on Buckingham.

DPS, in turn, provided a copy of the arrest warrant to CPA Ports Police and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, but not to CNMI Customs Services Division.

At around 7:45am on May 28, Buckingham arrived at the Saipan International Airport on board United Airlines flight UA5071 via Guam, from Colorado.

Buckingham's voluntary return to the CNMI caught many by surprise. At the time, he was also a subject of an extradition request.

Customs and CPA were not able to detain him or arrest him for lack of a copy of an arrest warrant on him.

Buckingham was fetched at the airport by his lawyer, Brien Sers Nicolas, and they proceeded to DPS where Buckingham turned himself in. That's where DPS executed the arrest warrant on Buckingham, who was later brought to Corrections and booked.

He later appeared before Judge David Wiseman and posted a \$50,000 bail. Wiseman said that Buckingham's presence cures his fugitive status. Buckingham went back to

Colorado and is expected to be back in early 2014 for his trial.

Customs Director Joe Mafnas, in a phone interview, said there was miscommunication and that Customs was not provided a copy of the arrest warrant on Buckingham.

He, however, said that Customs and CPA have always been working closely on issues including this one, although no copy of the arrest warrant could be found at the time either at Customs or CPA office at the airport.

"I also believe it was not intentional. But lessons were learned from that. Customs officers are now aware of the proper protocols. We posted arrest warrants at customs areas," Mafnas told *Saipan Tribune*.

What is being done?

San Nicolas said he has the cooperation of agency heads including the acting CPA executive director, Customs director Joe Mafnas, DPS Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, and Corrections Commissioner Ray Mafnas. He said he will be meeting also with acting CPA Ports Police chief Juan Dela Cruz.

"We do not believe that it was intentional but I can speak on behalf of law enforcement that we will be working together, we will be putting protocols in place, training will be provided. And we will be providing the final report to the

governor once we complete all of these," the AG said.

The AG said there will be more vigilance.

"As you know, there's an existing warrant for the former governor. We certainly would not want to allow what happened [in May] to happen again. We are going to be vigilant not just for the former governor but for all fugitives of the Commonwealth that this does not happen again," he added.

'Not common in the CNMI'

The AG, in his two-page report to the governor, said fugitives are not common in the CNMI. Even less common, he said, is the return of a fugitive to the Commonwealth.

"This being the case, it is perhaps understandable why officers of both CPA and Customs allowed Mr. Buckingham, a fugitive with a pending arrest warrant, to enter the Commonwealth and leave the airport without arresting him," San Nicolas said.

He added that the fugitive reported to DPS, "so no harm came from allowing him to freely leave the airport."

"Despite the understandability and lack of harm of the instant situation, measures must be taken to avoid a repeat of this situation. A fugitive at large with a pending arrest warrant should not be allowed to enter the Commonwealth

without being immediately detained and arrested at the point of entry," the AG said in his report.

The AG said proper protocols must be implemented to ensure that outstanding arrest warrants remain accessible to all law enforcement employees and to ensure that all agency employees are aware of the outstanding warrants.

"A lapse in time does not affect the validity of the warrant, and as such agency heads must ensure that all employees are aware of all outstanding warrants regardless of the time of issuance," he added.

The AG also said CPA police and Customs Service "should implement policies and procedures to ensure that outstanding warrants are readily available and known to be outstanding until such time that they receive notice that the warrant has been executed or quashed."

Buckingham is facing several charges related to his signing of a no-bid \$190.8 million diesel power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC and a sole-source ARRA management contract, hosting of a gathering for Fitial's delegate candidate in 2010, and failure to appear in court despite being served a penal summons in connection with criminal charges filed against him in August 2012, among other things.

Delayed green energy project finally pushes through

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

After two years of waiting, education officials were relieved after receipt of notification that the much-awaited green energy project in public schools will finally push through.

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., told the Board of Education in last week's meeting that the project must be fully completed before the expiration of its funding allocation on Sept. 30 this year.

The CNMI Division of Energy received \$6.5 million from the U.S. Department of Energy for renewable energy projects, \$2.4 million of which was given to PSS for the installation of wind turbines and solar panels in 10 schools.

The project was awarded to

Pacific Green Integrated Technology Inc. and Pacific Wind & Solar, LLC in September 2010. Funding for this was from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In March 2011, a groundbreaking was held at Saipan Southern High for six 95-foot wind turbines and 95 solar panels on campus. The energy project was expected to produce as much as 165 kilowatts, enough to power the entire campus and save up to \$200,000 in utility costs annually.

The U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife put the project on hold, however, for failing to secure a permit from the federal agency to build wind turbines at SSHS. The project has been stalled since then.

According to Sablan, the project contractor recently re-

sumed work at Saipan Southern High.

"The project has resumed at SSHS on June 11 and is expected to be completed before the funding deadline on Sept. 30. The work that they are doing now is the installation of all six large wind turbines, including the remaining three foundations and electrical connections," Sablan said.

Besides this task, the contractor is also scheduled to install the last four small wind turbines at Koblerville school, Chacha Oceanview, Gregorio T. Camacho, and Kagman High School while completion of the solar panels at Dr. Rita Hocog Inos will be done at a later date.

Other schools included in the energy project are Koblerville Elementary, Kagman High, Gregorio T. Camacho, Chacha, Garapan Elementary, Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. and Sr. High, Tini Jr. and Sr. High, and Sina-

palo Elementary.

"We're glad that this is now up and running because this has

been delayed for two years due to permitting. They [contractors] assured us that they could

do it on time so we're expecting to finish all the work by Sept. 30," she said.

Water outage on July 3 and 5 in Koblerville

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is informing Koblerville residents that a nine-hour partial water outage is scheduled for Wednesday, July 3, 2013, and Friday, July 5, 2013, from 8am to 5pm on both days.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas Inc., to replace non-working gate valves along Eskabeche Ave. Kelaguen St., Tamales Ct., Fanihin Tasi Dr., Tinala Ave., and Katdo Ct.

This project is part of the

Koblerville Gate Valve and Fire Hydrant Replacement Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The partial water outage on Wednesday, July 3, 2013, will affect the residents living on Eskabeche Ave. Kelaguen St., Tamales Ct., and Fanihin Tasi Dr.

The partial water outage on Friday, June 28, 2013, will affect the residents living on Tinala Ave. and Katdo Ct.

CUC's operations team and AIC Marianas will be work-

ing hard to return service to customers in these affected areas as soon as possible. Because of the scale of the work to be performed, CUC recommends that motorists take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the construction sites.

CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project and the water service interruption. Direct inquiries to project manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 235-7025-30 Ext. 324. **(CUC)**

Trial of ex-cop in hit-and-run case begins

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A hit-and-run victim took the witness stand yesterday as the bench trial began in the case of former police officer Martin I. Kapileo who, while allegedly intoxicated, hit the victim with a marked police's vehicle in Kannat Tabla.

The prosecution called seven witnesses, including the alleged victim, Mayona S. Bergosa. The trial will continue today before Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

The Office of the Attorney General has filed 12 charges against 50-year-old Kapileo, including driving under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving with bodily injury, and failure to stop at scene of accident.

On Friday, Camacho granted Kapileo's motion to dismiss two charges: failure to provide information at scene of accident and failure to render assistance at scene of accident.

Camacho denied Kapileo's motion to dismiss the charge of failure to stop at scene of accident.

Bergosa, 52, told the court yesterday how she was injured after being struck by a car on the shoulder lane of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero in the afternoon

of Oct. 27, 2012.

Bergosa recalled that she had just finished doing her laundry at the Just Laundry and was walking on the grassy area on the shoulder of the road on her way home when she heard a loud sound.

Bergosa said she fell down and blacked out. When she regained consciousness, there was nobody around and that there was blood on her head.

She said she gathered all her clothes that were scattered on the ground and put them back into the basket. Bergosa then noticed a "black plastic" near her laundry basket and just threw it into the grassy area.

She said she went back to Just Laundry where she told a friend that she got into an accident.

Bergosa said her friend then called 911 and an ambulance came and brought her to the Commonwealth Health Center. She said the wound on the back of her head needed seven stitches.

According to police's investigation, the DPS Boating Safety pickup truck being driven by Kapileo veered off the road and its right sideview mirror hit the pedestrian's head.

Kapileo did not stop; he just sped off. A witness, however, followed Kapileo until other police officers joined in the pursuit

and pulled him over near Quartermaster Road.

The prosecution called seven witnesses yesterday and is expected to call one more witness today, Tuesday.

Police Officer 3 Juan C. Mendiola, the seventh witness, said he was at DPS Central at the time when he heard that a government vehicle was involved in a hit and run.

Mendiola said that he responded to Quartermaster Road where the driver of the vehicle had been pulled over.

Mendiola said he saw Police Officer 2 Eric David at the scene, who approached and told him that Kapileo was the driver and was intoxicated.

As David superior, Mendiola said he reminded him the procedures for investigating an intoxicated person.

Mendiola said he then approached Kapileo and smelled the strong odor of alcohol from him.

He described Kapileo as wearing sunglasses and shaking.

At the time, Mendiola said, Kapileo was a Police Officer 2 assigned at DPS Logistics.

Assistant attorneys general Nicole Driscoll and Brian Flaherty are prosecuting the case. Defense attorney Brien Sers Nicholas is counsel for Kapileo.

\$5.2K bail for woman who allegedly hit her husband with car

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho retained yesterday the \$5,250 cash bail earlier imposed on a woman who allegedly used her car to hit her husband while he was riding a motorcycle in Dandan.

Denise D. Benavente, 26, was taken to court on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace.

Benavente was remanded to the custody of the Department of Corrections.

Preliminary hearing will be on July 9 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Francisco Romeo Iginoef stated in his report that the incident happened along the main road in Dandan Saturday night.

The victim sustained broken bones in his feet.

Preliminary police investigation showed that the couple had been drinking with other people at their house when Benavente got into an argument with a family friend. Benavente then allegedly got mad when her husband refused to "back her up" and take her side in the dispute.

The husband left, riding his motorcycle. She followed on a car and allegedly hit the motorcycle twice.

The husband crashed and sustained injuries.

The husband told police that he made a left turn on Buenas Tades St. and was proceeding to the intersection of the Dandan main road when his wife accidentally struck him from behind.

Iginoef said a witness told him that he saw the vehicle hitting the motorcycle from behind twice. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**



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Results of federal review of Head Start program bared

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The results of a weeklong review by the federal government of the Head Start program in the Commonwealth has identified weaknesses in its internal controls and lack of transparency with the public on how it is preparing students for kindergarten.

The results were officially released by the Board of Education on Friday.

Yvette Sanchez-Fuentes, director for the Office of Head Start, disclosed in a four-page document that the local program did not meet certain applicable performance standards, laws, regulations, and policy requirements.

The federal agency gave PSS 120 days to correct deficiencies upon receipt of the findings.

Specifically identified by the federal team is PSS' failure to comply with federal requirements on record-keeping and reporting.

Pursuant to the Head Start Act, each Head Start agency is required to make available to the public a report published at least once in each fiscal year that discloses information from the most recently concluded fiscal year. An explanation of budgetary expenditures and proposed budget for the fiscal year should also be reported, as well as the agency's efforts to prepare children to kindergarten.

"The grantee [PSS] did not ensure it made available to the public an annual report including an explanation of the proposed budget for the fiscal year and information on the agency's efforts to prepare children for kindergarten,"

stated Sanchez-Fuentes, in her letter to BOE chair Herman T. Guerrero.

According to the federal official, it was also found out that the 2010 annual report for school year 2010-2011 did not include the proposed budget and school readiness information. Furthermore, the 2011 report for school year 2011-2012 was not also published.

PSS Head Start also received citation on its fiscal integrity.

Pursuant to Part 92 of the Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Cooperative Agreements to State and Local Governments, the grantee must follow certain regulations in the inventory process, which PSS failed to adhere to.

Sanchez-Fuentes disclosed that the local program did not reconcile the physical inventory with its property records.

Specifically, the physical inventory conducted in July 2012 did not reconcile the results with its equipment records.

It was revealed that based on the February 2013 equipment records, or the fixed-asset master list, six vehicles were not seen during the July inventory.

"A review of the grantee's inventory form found it listed eight vehicles, two vans, one pickup truck, and five cars. However, the fixed-asset master list listed 14 vehicles (five vans, three pickups, five cars, and one SUV)," she disclosed.

According to Sanchez-Fuentes, Head Start director Melissa Palacios had told them that the equipment records were inaccurate because the six vehicles not found during the inventory did not belong to the equipment records. Palacios reported that one car was not purchased with Head Start

funds; two pickup trucks had been disposed of; and one van possibly belonged to a high school. Palacios also reportedly admitted to the incorrect omission of two vans during the inventory.

'Area of strength'

The federal review also lauded the program's area of strength. This pertains to maintaining a teaching staff roster that is 23 percent male. This exceeds the national average of 2.3 percent in 2011.

PSS Head Start has seven male teachers, which according to Sanchez-Fuentes, is a positive influence on the program. All seven teachers received their Early Childhood certifications, had college credits equivalent to AA degrees, and were currently enrolled in an Early Childhood Education bachelor's degree program.

"One of the positive results of having a large number of male teachers was a dramatic increase in fatherhood involvement," said Sanchez-Fuentes.

BOE chair Guerrero earlier described the outcome of the federal review as "positive and optimistic" and that PSS will continue to run the program.

Saipan Tribune learned that PSS grant application for the next program year has been submitted and is awaiting a decision.

It was earlier disclosed by a visiting team from HHS Office in Region IX that the results of the comprehensive review in March will determine if PSS will continue to handle the program or if it will be opened to other competing agencies and groups. The federal assessment aims to gauge the program's effectiveness under its current grantee.

Eight hurdle history 'boot camp'

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council successfully organized a history research workshop this past week with eight participants finishing the 40-hour weeklong course held at the Northern Marianas College.

The workshop was conducted by visiting University

of Guam history professor Dr. Anne Perez Hattori.

The eight who successfully took part in the workshop are UoG student Ignacio Dela Cruz, Garapan Elementary School teachers Jonathan Ball and Marlyn J. Tenorio, NMC instructor Guadalupe C. Borja-Robinson, Motherhead/Fathere-

ad coordinator Bryan Manabat, San Vicente Elementary School teacher Maria Takai, Public School System's Jennifer Welton, and Frank Stewart.

Hattori said she was happy with the turnout and very impressed with the quality of work the participants were able to produce.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Visiting University of Guam history professor Dr. Anne Perez Hattori, seated second left, poses with participants of the history research workshop organized by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council last week at the Northern Marianas College. Flanking Hattori are program officer Eulalia S. Villagomez and NMC archivist Tonny Goobaad.

"I'm quite pleasantly surprised that the students were all able to come up with a research topic, do some background reading, find some people to interview for more information about their topics, and write papers."

She said she actually teaches a subject similar to what the eight participants went through during the past week. The only difference, however, is that a normal class runs for 17 weeks.

"What I did is compress it all to one week. So basically it's a crash course. The work that they produced is very comparable to what I would get after 17 weeks from a college student. I told them on the first day that this is really like a boot camp."

Hattori and the participants

first dealt with why research is important and why history is important.

She also taught them how to pick topics and how to go about finding documents and sources.

Jessica Jordan dropped by and gave tips on how to do interviews. She also conducted a mini workshop on oral history.

In all, Hattori hopes that the history workshop would be the start of something big in the islands' history/humanities field.

"The intent of this history workshop is to try and encourage people to move into the direction of documenting important events. We started on Monday and a lot of the students said, 'How am I going to write 15 pages? That's crazy, I haven't written anything that long in my life.' But they've

all done it!" she said.

The Humanities Council earlier said that successful student papers would be added to public library collections of the CNMI and Guam.

Workshop participants will also be encouraged to present their research at the 2nd Marianas History Conference to be held in Guam in August.

Hattori, familial Titang, joined the UOG faculty in 1999 after completing her doctorate in Pacific History at the University of Hawaii at Manoa.

She teaches courses on the history of Guam, Micronesia, and the Pacific, as well as historical research and theory, and is the author of Colonial Dis-Ease: U.S. Navy Health Policies and the Chamorros of Guam, 1898-1941. (*Saipan Tribune*)



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE ROTA LANDFILL RFP13-GOV-136

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lieutenant Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified consultants to provide Architectural and Engineering (A&E) Design Services for the Rota Landfill. This project is located at Tatagchog on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001, or latest revision thereof. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The A&E Design Services for the Rota Landfill project package and scope of work will be available on Wednesday, June 19, 2013 at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI.

A pre-proposal meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, July 3, 2013, 10:00 a.m., at the Governor's Office conference room, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals must be submitted in writing to Ms. Elizabeth S. Balajadia, P.E., Project Manager, CIP Office, or email to balajadiaelizabeth@hotmail.com or facsimile to (670) 664-2408, no later than 4 p.m., ChST, July 10, 2013.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a project approach and a schedule of completion, addressing the scope of work requirements with details of how the work will be performed and accomplished by the consultants, with the names of the responsible persons identified and experiences of the responsible individuals of the team. The total proposal length shall not exceed 25 pages in length. Note, a firm that submits a proposal as a prime consultant cannot also submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, the consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. Qualifications and experience on similar projects | 25% |
| 2. Project Approach | 25% |
| 3. Work load and resources to accomplish the work in the required time frame | 25% |
| 4. Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects | 25% |

Performance time for completion of the A&E Design Services for the Rota Landfill is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of a Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US\$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top three (3) ranked firms. After a selection is made, negotiations will be conducted with the highest qualified firm to determine the final fair and reasonable price of the contract for the work to be performed. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFP13-GOV-136 A&E Design Services for the Rota Landfill**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, July 18, 2013. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, July 18, 2013 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, July 18, 2013, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than July 29, 2013. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply



IFC-Posse in action

October 2012 - June 2013

Independents Futbol Club receives funding from Project Brabu

The Independents Futbol Club or IFC received a sub grant from the Project Brabu to spread awareness about preventing underage drinking and drinking & driving to others in our community. This funding comes from the Strategic Planning Framework - State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG) through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The project entitled IFC-Posse targets youth and young adults ages 14-24, promoting alternatives to drinking through soccer, in all its forms.

The sub grant award for roughly \$13,000 will be used to fulfill three objectives;

- 1) **Provide safe and positive alternatives to underage drinking and drunk driving,**
- 2) Promote the prevention of underage drinking and drinking & driving in our community, and
- 3) Collect baseline data on the perceptions, reflections, and efficacy on preventing underage drinking/drunk driving.

The project motto: You don't need alcohol to play Futbol.

Posse (pos-se) \ˈpä-sē\ noun.
: a large group often with a common interest.

IFC-Posse has fun in the sun

The IFC-Posse brought together boys and girls to compete in the 3rd Annual Fiesta Beach Soccer U18 tournament on December 8, 2012 and the 5v5 U15 tournament on April 21, 2013. In addition to beach soccer, participants enjoyed their day at the beach playing volleyball, swimming and just hanging out. Melissa, a 14 year old competitor, says, "It was fun playing with my teammates and competing against some of my friends. Can't wait until next year."



IFC-Posse Green triumphs in NMIFA Women's Futsal B-Division

The 2012 Northern Mariana Islands Football Association (NMIFA) Women's Futsal League was held between October 13 and December 14, 2012. After a grueling 14 game round robin format, Posse Green finished the season with an impressive 11-1-2 (win-loss-draw) record. Meanwhile, Green's sister squad, IFC-Posse Orange, completed their season with a record of 3-10-1. IFC-Posse Project Director and coach, Greg

Borja says, "Both teams did quite well this season. Our goal was not to have the best record, but to participate in positive activities as an alternative to alcohol. I'm proud of both teams commitment and efforts to support our project."

IFC-Posse Orange represents the prevention of underage drinking, while IFC-Posse Green focus on preventing drinking and driving.

Message from our Project Director:

Coaches...measure the success of your program, not by the number of wins you have, but instead by the number of your players that return each year and grow our sport.

BY THE NUMBERS

Substance abuse statistics in the CNMI:

- 18% of adults surveyed in 2011, have driven passengers while under the influence of alcohol
- Only 10% of adults talked with their children about the dangers of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs

IFC-Posse hosts Beach Soccer to prevent underage drinking

The IFC-Posse hosted an under 21 Beach Soccer tournament at Fiesta Resort on May 11, 2013. Youth from 16-20 years old were the target group for this competition. Project Director Greg Borja states, "we wanted to get youth who are old enough to drive, but too young to legally drink alcohol. Providing a safe environment for our islands youth is the main goal here, along with giving them facts about the dangers of underage drinking and drinking and driving."

The tournament saw 30 players from around island join in a lottery to choose teams, while other youth acted as referees and statisticians. No overall winning team was crowned, although Golden Boot awards and a Golden Glove award were given out for the male and female with the highest number of goals and the goalkeeper with the most saves.

One parent who attended the event remarked, "It's nice to see these kids out here just having fun. Sports don't have to be competitive all the time. I hope to see this event repeated in the future."



59 youth and young adults participated in our project this year. We hope to see more come out and promote the prevention of Underage Drinking and Drinking & Driving in the years to come. Thank you all!—Coach Greg

Judge rules in criminal contempt dispute

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_deltorres@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has issued a ruling that addresses the issue of whether criminal contempt is an available sanction for violation of what could be deemed a probation condition.

In an order issued Friday, Wiseman said that without deciding whether contempt proceedings are proper in addition to revocation proceedings for a violation of a condition of probation, he finds that even if revocation proceedings are a possible remedy for such a violation, it is not an exclusive one.

In this case, the judge said that defendant Paul Semens was warned of the possibility that violation of the April 3, 2013, order would subject him to extension or revocation of probation or contempt of court.

Therefore, Wiseman said he finds probable cause established as to count one for contempt and further finds probable cause that Semens may have committed this crime.

According to court records, on March 2, 2013, on Saipan, Semens visited the home of Niuri Semens, in violations of a temporary restraining order. He went to his former home to get some documents that he

needed for submission to the CNMI Housing Authority so that his minor children will not be homeless if evicted by the CNMI Housing Authority.

On April 3, 2013, Semens pleaded guilty to one count of contempt for violating the court order of protection.

On April 10, 2013, the court handling the matter issued a judgment and conviction order, accepting the plea agreement.

Semens' sentence was suspended and he was placed on probation. He was ordered to pay probation fees, to perform community service, to have no contact with the victim for a period of probation, and to obey all laws as well as rules of the Office of Adult Probation.

The judgment and conviction order warned that failure to comply with the conditions would constitute a violation of the terms and would subject Semens to extension or revocation of probation or contempt of court.

Semens, through assistant public defender Eden Schwartz, argued that the condition in the judgment and conviction order is a condition of probation and that criminal contempt is not an available sanction for violation of a probation condition.

Schwartz asserts that the power to revoke is imposed by

statute and revocation is the only remedy for a probation violation. She directs the court to several cases outside the CNMI that have held that violation of a probation condition is not punishable by a separate contempt action.

In his order, Wiseman said the statute provides that any person who resists or refuses to comply with a lawful order of the court is guilty of criminal contempt.

He said the majority of jurisdictions have considered the question of whether a court can punish a violation of a condition of probation as a contempt of court, and have held, for various reasons, that criminal contempt is not an available sanction for a violation of a probation condition.

"Although it appears to a general rule that contempt proceedings are not an available sanction for a violation of a condition of probation, the court considers whether the provisions that defendant not have any contact with the victim was ordered as part of the sentence or as a condition of probation," the judge said.

The order, Wiseman pointed out, is entitled "Judgment and Conviction Order," and the provisions fall under the heading of "Sentence."

The provision, the judge said,

states that defendant shall not have any contact with the victim for the period of probation.

"A reading of this provision seems to cut toward a finding that the provision was meant as a condition of probation, and not ordered separately as part of the sentence," he said.

Wiseman said he next considered the fact that defendant was warned in the judgment and conviction order that violation of any of the conditions would subject him to either revocation or contempt of court, in light of the holding in *Alfred vs. state*, "where the court found it could not invoke contempt proceedings for a probation violation, at least not when the defendant had not been warned of the possibility."

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday to our beautiful Auntie Wawa, Laura Ann Deleon Guerrero! Greetings come from your loving niece Jesselle and nephews Jesse Boy and JoDanny Boy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A happy and terrific third birthday to the little boy who had my heart from the start, Izeiah Walter Sambile Deleon Guerrero! May God bless you today and forever with more birthdays to come. I love you, with all my heart, forever! Hugs and kisses from Mommy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 2, 2005

NMC asked to explain failure to meet alien hiring policy by 2005

The House of Representatives is asking the Northern Marianas College to explain why it failed to comply with the mandate to end its hiring of nonresident workers after 10 years. Rep. Justo S. Quitugua, chair of the Committee on Education, said the move is part of his recent introduction of a bill supporting NMC's request for an extension on the period allowing it to hire nonresidents. Quitugua, in a June 27 letter to NMC president Antonio V. Deleon Guerrero, said that NMC's request to extend the hiring of nonresident instructors at NMC resulted in the introduction of House Bill 14-329.

Commerce tightens rules for insurance firms

The Department of Commerce has proposed stricter regulations on financial reporting of insurance companies to the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, amid labor bond-related problems resulting from the closures and downsizing in the garment industry. The draft regulations, submitted by Commerce Secretary Andrew Salas, would require the annual audited financial statement of insurers to meet statutory accounting principles. Insurance companies would also be required to provide an analysis of the effect an immediate calling of 20 percent of labor bonds issued by the company would have on the viability of the insurance firm to continue doing business.

July 2, 2006

Fitial: Pursue NTT deal

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial dismissed yesterday as "fake" the issues that were aired by opposing quarters, including GTA, over the impending acquisition by Japan's NTT DoCoMo Inc. of Guam Cellular and Paging Inc. and Guam Wireless Telephone Co. "I think it is camouflaging the real concern. It's a fake concern. They are afraid of competition. The issue is competition," said Fitial in an interview yesterday. TeleGuam Holdings LLC—the parent company of Guam local exchange carrier GTA—has asked the Federal Communications Commission to deny NTT's proposed assignment and transfer of control of the telephone companies, citing security concerns.

Int'l designer shows off wares in Saipan show

Michael Jackson's favorite fashion designer, Andre Kim, took Saipan by storm with a one-night fashion show at the World Resort Saipan's Royal Taga Hall in Susupe on June 25. The Andre Kim Fashion Show featured Kim's world-class designs as worn by 20 of the 2006 Miss Seoul Beauty Pageant candidates. "This is the first time it [Andre Kim fashion show] has been held outside South Korea," said Marianas Visitors Authority acting managing director Tess Castro. "The fashion style of Andre Kim is breathtaking. The flowing style of the dresses shown is perfect for the Saipan climate." A world-renowned fashion designer, Kim's designs have a devoted following among celebrities throughout South Korea and the United States, all having been spotted at some point wearing Kim's distinctive creations.

July 2, 2007

Increasing number of terminations seen

The Department of Labor has started receiving requests from employers to terminate the employment of their houseworkers and farmers due to the minimum wage increase that will take effect July 25. Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that as of Thursday nine employers had already informed him of their intention to terminate their houseworkers and farmers. San Nicolas said these employers explained that they had given their employees notices of termination as they cannot afford the \$3.55 an hour wage rate.

Hundreds welcome fallen hero

The island of Rota paused for a moment of silence at 8am yesterday morning to welcome the arrival of the remains of their fallen son, CPL Joe Junior G. Charfauros. Charfauros' body arrived on Rota yesterday morning. As the plane was taxiing along the runway, two fire trucks facing one another shot water into the water to form a watery arc over the aircraft. As soon as the plane rolled to a stop at the tarmac of the Rota International Airport, a U.S. Military Funeral Honors Detail went up the plane to bring out the casket to the reception hall inside the airport. Military Veterans Affairs Office executive officer Ruth Coleman described the events as "very solemn."



DELTA DONATION

Delta representatives Esther Sound and Chris Concepcion donate two round-trip economy class tickets to anywhere Delta flies in the United States to the 2013 Liberation day Queen candidates. From left, Sound, Tina Concepcion, Melody Johnson, Nicole Sablan, Sina Ha'ani Palacios, and Concepcion.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

TES parents invited to 'Kids Learn!' presentation

Parents and guardians of kindergarten to 5th grade students of Tanapag Elementary School in school year 2012-2013 are invited to attend a presentation for "Kids Learn! Backpack and Readers" on July 3, 2013, at 9am at the school cafeteria. Your attendance will help your child review grade level skills from last school year and get ready for the next year and prevent summer learning loss.

Parents and children who have used this resource have re-

ported good results. You will be able to successfully guide your child to complete worksheets which will help improve your child's reading, writing and mathematics skills. (PR)

MHS Class of 1993 sets final meeting

The MHS Class of 1993 will be having its last class reunion meeting today, July 2, 2013, starting at 6pm at the Oleai Beach Bar & Grill, Beach Road, San Jose. We urge all class members to attend this very important meeting, as they will be celebrating their 20th reunion on Saturday, July

6, 2013. For more information, contact Maryann Borja-Arriola at 483-2279 or Vivian Sablan at 288-1129. (PR)

MHS Class of 1983 says thanks

On behalf of the MHS Class of 1983, the reunion steering committees would like to say "thank you" to everyone for joining the reunion activities. It's been a great 30 years of seeing everyone and enjoying everyone's company. (PR)

Navy, Air Force training on FDM

The U.S. Navy and Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on July 1 from noon to 3:30pm; July 2 from 10am to 1:30pm; July 3 from 1 pm to 11:55pm; and July 4 to 7 from 6am to 11:55pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

Hey! We're getting the band back together!

Nothing says "Fourth of July" like a marching band.

This year, award-winning band directors Will Dewitt of Saipan Pacific Winds and Jake Mafnas from University of Guam will combine their talents to bring the Pride of the Pacific Marching Alliance Band back to Saipan for this year's Liberation Day Parade.

This is the third iteration of the Alliance Band. The second was in Guam in 2011.

"The idea is to alternate performances between Saipan and Guam's Liberation Day parades," Dewitt said. "This gives both islands' musicians a chance to collaborate and learn how to form a marching band, increase musicianship, and bring our two islands closer together."

This year's "band camp," as the directors affectionately refer to the event, is composed of 42 high school musicians and alumni. They will perform



The Pride of the Pacific Marching Alliance Band will return to Saipan for this year's Liberation Day Parade.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Karl King's Barnum and Bailey's Favorite and I'd Like to Teach the World

to Sing" while marching with flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, horns,

trombones, a brass section, and a complete drumline.

"This gives our kids a new musical experience they would routinely get in mainland high schools but rarely get out here," said Dewitt.

To help with expenses, Dewitt solicited a member of the Saipan Pacific Winds, Brabu Pharmacy business owner Ted Parker, to act as sponsor.

Parker, himself a tuba player with years of experience in high school and college marching bands, said, "I couldn't resist. When Will told me he was 'getting the band back together' I just had to contribute. These musicians deserve the chance to have that experience."

There will be a broad array of band alumni performing, which DeWitt promises will give current high-schoolers a taste of outdoor playing "fun."

For more information how you may get involved or join the Saipan Pacific Winds or next year's band camp, contact DeWitt at 235-1087. See you at the parade! (PR)

Group's revival hopes to unify Pinoys on Tinian



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row left to right, United Filipinos Association on Tinian adviser Paul Madriaga, auditor Vicente Requiron Jr., adviser Flaviano Guerrero, councilman Estevan Cabrera, president Rodney Cabarles, vice president Susan Cruz, business manager Vina Hofschneider, adviser Corazon Cepeda, secretary Lizabeth Hofschneider, PRO Vivian Hofschneider, PRO Sydney Biton. Back row from left to right, board member Joselito Lenteja, councilman Ray Cing, CNMI Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas, Tinian Municipal Council chair Antonio SN Borja, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, UniFil board member Renato Esteban, UniFil treasurer Tess Sanchez, and board members Vida Borja and Eddie Cannaoay.

The newly installed president of the United Filipinos Association on Tinian, or UniFil, hopes that Sunday's induction of officers will be the start of Filipinos as a group being more involved in affairs on the island.

"Today's induction ceremony is a significant milestone not only in the history of UniFil as an organization, but also in the life of the Filipinos as an ethnic community. Today's event marks the birth of an organization responsive to the needs of its members

and that of the Tinian community. Today's ceremony puts an end to the inactivity, lack of involvement in community affairs, and individualism among Filipinos in the island of Tinian," said UniFil president Rodney S. Cabarles in his acceptance speech.

Cabarles, a nurse supervisor at the Tinian Health Clinic, said the UniFil's revival marks a major transformation in the community life of Filipinos on Tinian.

"Today is the day that we people of

Filipino ancestry will begin to rise as people with a unique culture, proud of its noble traditions and values, and above all dedicated and responsible members of this island community."

As president, Cabarles said his first priority is to reach out to every single Filipino on island and invite them to become association members.

"Within my first three months in office, no person on Tinian with Filipino ancestry...can claim that he/she was not invited to join our organization.

I cannot blame some members in the community who are hesitant to join right now. It is understandable because of the failure of past administrations or groups of similar nature to sustain membership and to actively engage in social, cultural, and civic activities. That too will change. This administration will make sure that UniFil and its members will play an active role in the overall development of this island and CNMI as a whole," he said.

His long-term goals, meanwhile, are to promote friendship and unity among Filipinos on Tinian and for UniFil to be recognized not just as a group made up of transient workers/residents, but as a valuable partner of the Tinian community.

"I assure the CNMI leadership, from Gov. Eloy S. Inos down to basic government units, that we are ready to work hand in hand with you to attain social and economic prosperity for the benefit of all," he said.

Aside from Cabarles also sworn in to two-year terms were vice president Mary Susan M. Cruz, secretary Lizabeth B. Hofschneider, treasurer Teresita O. Sanchez, auditor Vicente C. Requiron Jr., business manager Vina M. Hofschneider, and public relations

officers Vivian V. Hofschneider and Sydney Clifford S. Biton.

The organizations board of directors is also headed by Cabarles, who will serve as chairman, with members Joselito C. Lenteja, Benedicta L. Borja, Manuel D. Sencio, Rodelio D. Valiente, Renato V. Esteban, and Eddie Cannaoay.

Its board of advisers, meanwhile, are made up of Flaviano D. Guerrero, Corazon T. Cepeda, and Apollo M. Madriaga, who is the current PIO of the United Filipino Organization on Saipan and its many-time president.

Cabarles and company were sworn in by CNMI Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas.

About 200 people attended the induction ceremony at the Kammer Beach fiesta grounds in San Jose. Cabarles said that UniFil members, especially those with children, stayed until the end of the ceremony and enjoyed the parlor games.

Also attending the ceremony were Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, Tinian Municipal Council chair Antonio SN Borja, Tinian Municipal Council vice chair Estevan Cabrera, Tinian Municipal Council secretary Reynaldo M. Cing, and United Filipino Organization officers led by their president Anamae Adaza. (Saipan Tribune)

Gay modeling show tonight at LibDay

Natasha Service Center is organizing a gay modeling show tonight at the 2013 Liberation Day festivities at the Civic Center grounds in Susupe.

A total of 13 contestants have signed up for the Miss Gay Supermodel Natasha 2013: "Margie Moran Salvador," "Shamcy Supsup," "Chloey," "Mutya Bonita Crisostomo," "Milkshake," "Miranda Kett Ann," "Bernadette Cleopatra," "Jolly," "Lynda Cullins," "Pebbles," "Kristalla," "Joan," and "Sunshine."

Aside from the Miss Gay Super Model Natasha 2013 tiara and first, second, third, and fourth runners-up, other awards up for grabs during the competition are Miss Gay Congeniality, Miss Gay Yuichiro's 2013, and Miss Gay Model Liberation 2013.

Minor award are Best in Fantasy Costume, Best in Gown, and Best in Talent.

Cash and in-kind prizes will be awarded to the competition's winners. Winners of the Miss Gay Supermodel

Natasha 2013 will also take part in the July 4 Liberation Day parade.

Natasha Service Center would like to thank the Saipan Mayor's Office and the 2013 Liberation Day organizing committee chair Vicente Camacho for allowing them to hold the Miss Gay Supermodel Natasha 2013 competition.

The competition starts at 8pm tonight. For more information, call the organizer at 285-8117 or 2882697. (Saipan Tribune)

Bereaved families support group meeting on July 11

The group that is in the process of forming a Compassionate Friends chapter on Saipan will not be holding their monthly grief support meeting on the first Thursday of the month, July 4, but on July 11 from 6pm to 7:30pm, in the NMPASI conference room on Middle Road, in Gualo Rai.

We offer understanding and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents who are grieving the loss of a child of any age, and from any cause. We provide a safe, confidential setting, in which to share our experiences, while respecting and supporting each other, and listening. We have "been there." We do not espouse any specific religious or philosophical ideology. There is no "right way" to grieve, and family members are welcome to come to share

or just to listen.

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist families toward the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others to be supportive. Today more than 600 chapters serving all 50 states plus Washington D.C., Puerto Rico and Guam offer friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved parents, siblings and grandparents and other family members during the natural grieving process after a child has died.

For more information, call Jill Derickson at 287-5337 or e-mail jilld@pticom.com. To learn more about The Compassionate Friends, visit their website at www.compassionatefriends.org. (PR)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Supreme Court decision a setback for voting rights

Tuesday's Supreme Court decision striking down a key section of the Voting Rights Act won't bring back the worst excesses that inspired that landmark civil rights law. African Americans in the South seeking to register to vote don't need to fear that this represents a return to violence, harassment or humiliating literacy tests.

But the unwise 5-4 decision will make it easier for state and local governments with a history of discriminating against minorities to engage in subtler forms of disenfranchisement. The ruling is an unjustified incursion by the court on a power explicitly conferred on Congress by the Constitution to protect voting rights, and it serves the interests of those who would make voting harder, not easier.

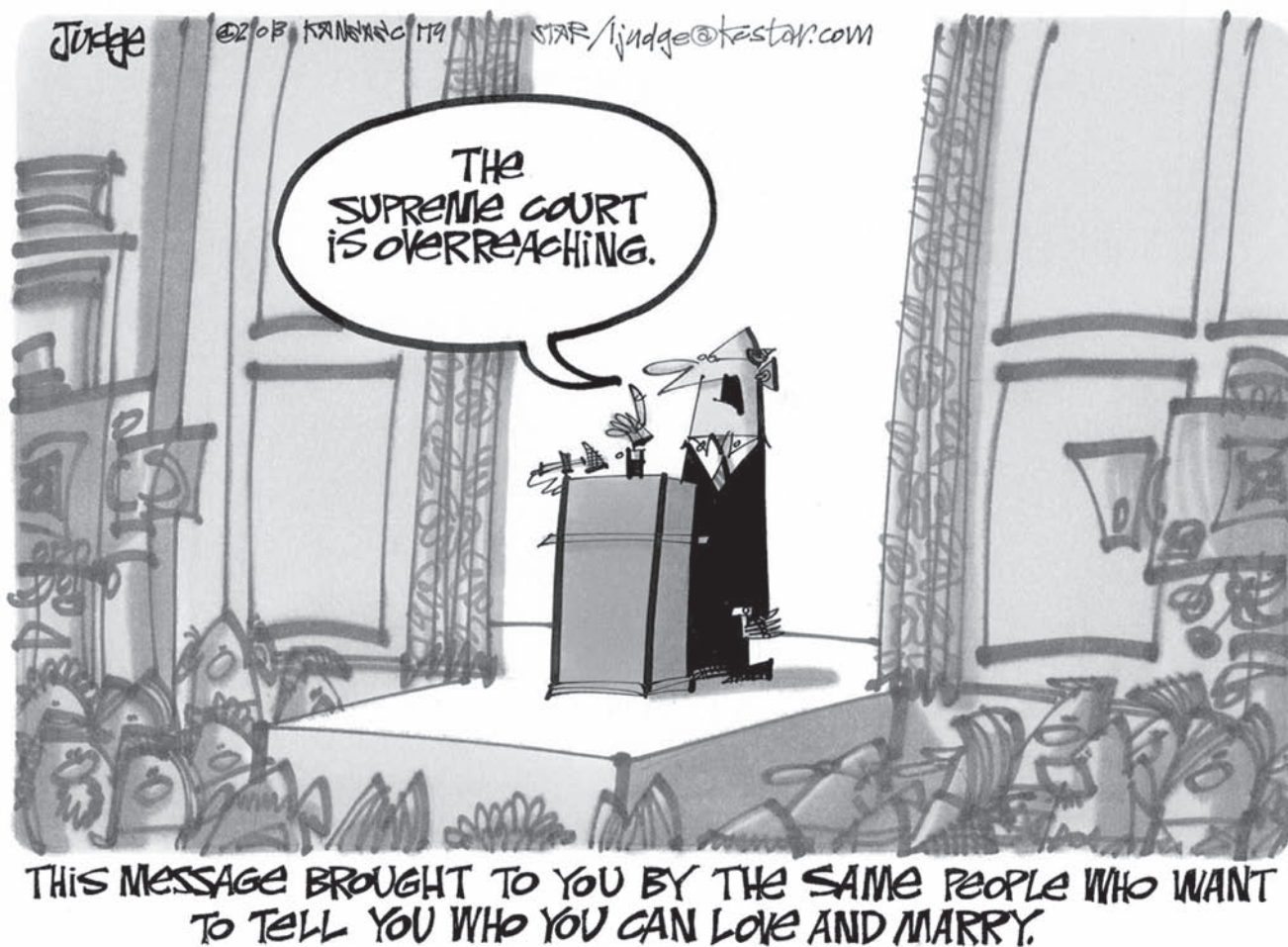
Enacted in 1965, the Voting Rights Act contains a nationwide prohibition against racial discrimination in voting. But that protection must be enforced after the fact through time-consuming lawsuits. To provide timelier relief in states and localities with a history of discrimination, the law requires those jurisdictions to "pre-clear" changes in their election procedures with the U.S. Justice Department or a federal court in Washington.

Tuesday's decision did not, as some feared, declare the pre-clearance requirement unconstitutional. But in an opinion by Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., the court turned it into a dead letter by striking down the legal formula used to determine which jurisdictions must seek pre-clearance. Although the formula was renewed for 25 years by Congress in 2006, it is rooted in data about low minority voter turnout and the use of literacy tests that go back to the 1960s and early 1970s. That, Roberts said, was a fatal flaw, given the fact that minority voter registration and political participation in the covered jurisdictions now approach parity with non-covered jurisdictions.

It's true, as Roberts observed, that "things have changed in the South." It's also the case that, in reauthorizing the pre-clearance provisions in 2006, Congress didn't start from scratch, partly because reopening the coverage formula for debate would have been politically divisive. But Congress also concluded after significant investigation that discrimination in the covered jurisdictions was still a problem and that pre-clearance had served (and would continue to serve) an important deterrent effect.

In previous rulings upholding the Voting Rights Act, the Supreme Court deferred to Congress' judgment in determining how it would execute its responsibility to "enforce ... by appropriate legislation" the 15th Amendment's guarantee that the right to vote "shall not be denied or abridged ... on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude." Its refusal to do so this time is unnecessary and fraught with grave implications.

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Xizang 2013 go-go-go

We are about three years behind schedule. Xizang is known worldwide as Tibet, the exotic land associated with heaven on earth, Shangri-La. The image of a Himalayan utopia was made in 1933 in James Hilton's *The Lost Horizon*, made into a popular movie by Frank Capra in 1937. We saw the retelling of the story in a '73 version that rates low on Rotten Tomatoes!

We've eyed a journey to Lhasa awhile while in sojourn in Zhongguo. A visit to the famed Potala Palace on top of Marpo Ri is a must if we were to hang around. We've even been using the letters of our title as our password to our email to rev us up for the trip.

However, the distance is not easy to navigate, geographically and bureaucratically. The land size of China is bigger than that of the United States. Traveling from Shenyang to Lhasa would be like trekking from Boston to Albuquerque.

Lhasa this year is, however, a no-go. Unbeknownst to this egghead, the Sino heads of Beijing decided to tighten the seat belts and make it more mullah expensive and paperwork extensive for foreigners to head up to the former Dalai Lama's blue skies.

We went close to the *Chaoxian* (NoKor) border last year by the Yalu River. The local hotel proprietor refused us three nights lodging. "There are designated foreigner hotels," he said. The rationale was to curb illegal North Korean defectors coming in as tourists. Yeah! We took the explanation with raised eyebrows, stayed overnight, and quickly returned to Shenyang before we were tempted to pull the old plastic out of pride, and regret it later when it was time to pay up.

April 1 this year was a fool's day for us. China decided that resident foreigners visiting Tibet must get a permit, be in groups, book through an agency, and pay the foreigners' charges to the requisite interpreter, vehicle, meals and accommodations. This, according to one of our former students now working for a tour agency who remembers us because we gave her permission to skip the last three weeks of our semester so she can travel to Phuket, Thailand, to train to be a tour guide.

The cost is really understandable, given that most visitors come from outside with vacation money on good credit. The obvious difference is that we work at a local university receiving local remuneration (OK, we get housing benefit) on the affordability scale of existence on the local currency.

But never the mind. We understood both the economics and the politics. China is the whipping boy of reactionaries and there is poetic justice in making blue book holders pay according to what they can afford. Besides, \$45 per night on three-star hotels is a bargain, compared to rates elsewhere!

Our fascination is, of course, the rooftop of the world, the Himalayas. We rationalized that if we could not make Xizang, we could at least make it to the foothills. Chengdu in Sichuan (yes, home of the red pepper) is now our destination. The Sichuan basin actually

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.



heads up to the Himalayas, and some ethnic Tibetans are numbered among the population of Sichuan, along with mountain cousins residing in neighboring Guizhou and Yunnan.

We had previously dipped our toes in the picturesque Li River of Guilin in neighboring Guangxi (Guangdong of Guangzhou/Canton is "dong", north; xi is west, got it?) with the barren karsts protruding like sore thumbs, and the cormorant birds assisting black-shirted fishers on rafts, a famed tourist destination in these hills of the sandal-wearing crowd. (For the Pinoy in the audience, karst is like the Bohol chocolate hills without the chocolate, the green grass covering that turns brown like chocolate in the summer.)

So we are now on the sleeper train from Shenyang to Chengdu, a 40-hour chug-chug that Paul Theroux and the travelogue crowd would be delighted to take. We left Shenyang at dusk with the earth tilting south, so it is still light this time of the year when the Tropic of Cancer is rotating where the equator normally is (also called solar solstice) in relationship to the sun.

It had been a year since we took a train trek, the last time to Manzhouli in Inner Mongolia close to the Russian border. This time, we are heading some 2,800 km southwest through oil rich and rice-proud Panjin by the *Bohai* (gulf) of the Yellow Sea toward Tianjin, the other municipality administered by the central government in Hebei, along with Beijing.

We left Shenyang surrounded by summer green, a nice sight after the long dreary days of the cold and the frost. China's classical art form is the *feng shui*, an intentional and rather elaborate design of space, and it shows in the landscaping around the city where nature is not just an ornamental additive to human settlement, but rather the other way around.

Not unlike the industrial cities of the West, however, the provinces of Liaoning and Hebei depend too much on fossil fuel from the Bohai and its inland pumps, to the coal-fired boilers that has added considerable carbon into the atmosphere, and soot in the air we breath. So we snoozed through the soot carbon that still hangs over the cities along our route, though now considerably less than before since gas-fired boilers in the factories replaced coal last year.

China by Rail was how we named our previous forays. Let this be our first for 2013.

EDITORIAL POLICY

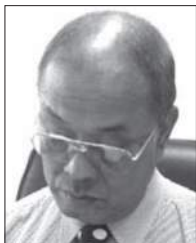
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Selebrasion Liberasion

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Gi Huebes pagu na semana, i mina 68 años deste finagpu' geran dos guine. Pagu lokue' na sakan i mina' 35 años deste ke ma-establese i primet na gobietnu ni finañagu ni konstitusion iya Marianas.

Megai sinesedita deste ayu na tiempu gi sisteman gobietnamentu 'nai hita timunerun gobietno-ta. Ta elihe i gobietnu yan lehislatura dispues tana' fan ma-apunta jues siha para i kotten superiot yan supremu.

Deste 1978 sige ta mueba etsisiun mafanana'an "self-government" 'nai ta gobietnan maisa hit kumu tautau O'Perlas Iya Pasifiku.

Gi hilu' este na modun gobietnamientu, kau felis lamayot patte i finachucho'ta manafitme mas mafanana'an "institution" demokrasia, pisu 'nai ta gobietnan mamaia hit? Na ti este na pisu debi u inakompapaña ni direchun libre gi kada unu yan todus? Haf' ennau siha na direchu yan kau magahet na tana' metgot mas i kinalamten 'nai man-gaige hit pa'gu?

Yangin in' atan tatte finapos asuntun areglu siha guine, repara sa' ti pot hita 'nai umentalu' i federat soluke interesña. Gi kada ha hagu' halom i pettan gima'ta, mas lokue' ha utot direchun natibu gumubietnan maisague'. Estague' i masusede deste 1978.

Repara lokue' sa' gi todou 'nai ha muebague', i para u sa'pet i natibu 'nai uttimoña todou kinalamtena mampos inañoghu gi federat. Deste food stamps, Medicaid, Obamacare yan otu siha programa. Taya' areglun para ta ayudan maisa hit dispues gi presente siha na programa. Yangin ti ta repara este na finapos, pues siempre ha atbola linala'ta i federat gi kaprichoña.

Who let the cannibals in?

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce got it right. The business community on Saipan does not support legalizing gaming on Saipan because they have a suspicion that the tourist dollars already being circulated on Saipan may be cannibalized by the introduction of gaming on Saipan. This is 100 percent spot on. Gaming proponents need to understand that there is *no Saipan gaming market*. Therefore with no gaming market to pull cash from, the only pockets that will be drained for the casinos are the pockets destined for Tony Roma's, DFS, Avis, Mañagaha, and the tour/dive shops. Tourist dollars already being spent in the community will be the targets of a casino that needs cash to stay alive.

If a gaming market study had been done by the House members, they would have learned that global gaming markets are estimated by four quantifiable factors (*get out your statistics books*): Propensity, Market Diversion, Induced Gamer Visit, and Frequency. For a gaming market to be estimated, a professional gaming consulting firm will study the demographics of the gaming market and project a gaming win number for the investors or, in this case, a potential tax windfall for the CNMI government. Unfortunately, in the rush to approve a horribly flawed gaming bill, the Legislature skipped the all important study and left to fate what economic statistics could have easily predicted.

When looking at Saipan's gaming demographics, the glaring notable is that visitors to Saipan have very little if any *propensity* (willingness or urge) to gamble. Put differently, tourists don't travel to Saipan or any other resort island destination because casinos are there—they travel here to experience the weather, unique culture, and tropical beauty of the islands. Therefore, when estimating the Saipan gaming market, the tourist's propensity to gamble will be among the lowest propensity ratios in the world. Contrast that with destinations such as Macau, Jeju Island, or the Native Indian casinos in the U.S. where the main purpose of the visit is to gamble, thereby creating the highest propensity ratios in the world. Tourists usually stick to the purpose of their visit unless their interests are diverted.

Market diversion occurs when visitors with a low propensity to gamble (Saipan tourists) are "induced" by the casino to spend the money they had budgeted for other tourist-related activities to gamble instead.

Gi ti mapot na eskalera, ha amot hit linibren kada unu yan todus gi preparasion para tana metgot mas pisun gobietnamiento-ta. Atan kau propiu na 52 pot sientu gi man-masuesuedu na tautau-ta mangaige gi papa' mafanana'an poverty level na sueddu. Guiya este i midision pineble. Mas ke lamita man-masasapet pot tagpapa' sueddu sa' mampos destrosiau i ekonomia. Dinanche este na modun linala' miseraple? Kau este na estau sudadanu ta pega kumu man-libre natibu?

I puntu: Debi u mauleg mas i modun linala' para i tautau-ta siha gi parehu na plaset prosperu na kinalamten ekonomia' 'nai sanu yan antau i sueddun memegaiña gi tautau-ta. Dispensa sa' kulan hu es-totba hinassun miyu na biahe, lau kuestion este ni debi ta diskute kumu membron komunidan iya Marianas.

Guaguan nina'ita gi federat

'Nai tana'en ñaihon i uttimu guinaha-ta direchun disposision (mafanana'an sovereignty) yan tanu' para usun militat, ha gu'ot i federat i hagas ha kechule'.

Adumididi' sige ha kapon chachalaña siha i para tana' fitme pisun para ta gobietnan maisa hit. Gi mismu sakudida, ha pugi hit ayudun food stamps, atkilon guma', apas gaston hinemlu' yan otu siha programan para muna' poble.

Yangin in' repara, este siha na programa mantai areglu gi manera 'nai siña guaha preparasion para tafanohge gi dos adeñgta gi disposision ginibietnan ginen halom. Gi uttimu, siempre inestablese relasion "amu yan esklabu" (master-slave relationship) 'nai todou pot todou ha bira ha'anita gi kaprichoña.

Na ti magahet na man-gai dignu yan integredat i natibu. Haf' na para ta diskuida hit gi asuntu siha ni gaige pa'gu gi dos patman kanaita?

Buente gaige este na fina diskuidu siha gi anaku' yan mibirada na sisteman demokrasia. Ayu u kumple dinisehaña i siña ha mattigue' esta i uttimu gi pinetsigen direchoña 'sino "justisia". Lokue', buente pot guaha 'nos kuantos ayudu na taya' satton na inadahe gi makayun mas fitme na sisteman gobietnamentu. Kulan tafa' huegu i un' atikulu ni hagas ti hogeten natibu. Hagas malulog i natibu tumachu gi dos adeñgña.

Ti ha lachaiyu' esperanza i man-masusede deste alacha. Patte este gi ebulation (evolution) linala' sisteman demokrasia. Un' dia 'nai mas megai gi man-ma-eduka na famaguonta bumira siha mage, siempre umata'lon ma'atan haf' siha presisu na u fan ma-aregla pot linala' natibu.

Puede 'nai mattu ennau na tiempu u guaha mas sinsiyu na inadi-ñgan pot para umakayun mas yanu na plaset para famaguonta. Iya monana i pisun ekonomia sa' estague' chachalaña todou otu siha asuntun linahyan guine. Sin este, siempre kada ratu ta repite i linache 'nai masge' ya lastima fina cho'chu' todus. Sin inbatgu, gai inañoghu-yu' gi man-ma-eduka yan manomtum na famaguon-ta. Sumen presisu na ta hagu' mona kumayune futtunan famaguonta. Taya' otu gaige guine solukie ke hita mismu. Hahassu este gi oran kombetsasion miyu.

■ ■ ■

Ta tatiye si tata gi kanton tasi 'nai sige tumalaya. Esta man-mato-tomba hit kume hagu' i inagua' lastroña gi inai. Gi hilu' pinasensia, ha fanu'e hit libianu mago'naf kineni tiau yan manineñg. Gi gima, ha fanue' hit si nana preparasion este na totchen natibu.

Dispues de malofanyu' gi este na pasun tata, hu hahassu haf' mas na chinatsaga nai ha mattigue pot futtunahu. Gaige este na hinasoghu gi hechuran tinayuyot agradesimientu pot todou sakrifisioña fuera ke mapresu ni Japones pot masuspecha na talañgan (spy) Amerikanu guine antes de geran dos. Si Yuus Maase'! Si Iku.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A desirable future for the CNMI

It is always with great interest and anticipation that we all wait for the result of the meeting held at the invitation of our governor. This week the members of the Legislature and the governor are meeting for the second time. As usual the old business takes front center of the agenda, and each attendee would take turns talking about their state of the things to do from the last get-together. If there are pending or open-ended discussions, I am pretty sure they would be taken cared of at this meeting. Then the new business would follow, and would more or less spell out a new list of things to do for the next meeting if necessary.

My impression of the invitational meeting of the governor resembles a funnel in its intended purpose and focus in that each member of the Legislature is at liberty to propose and advocate a case or argument of some sort of issue germane to the day's assembly. By brainstorming, according to the governor, he is banking that the widest possible perspective would come out, then it narrows down to specific key actions, then widening again as the elected representatives as a group diffuses and implements its vision for the CNMI people. It is this process I thought the governor is interested in taking charge of our real and unstable economic situation by "getting outside of the box" and leading the cause so that at least the legislators would buy-in on this important process of identifying a desired direction or end for the good of the CNMI people. It is all about direction, but what it is is anyone's guess at this point. If we count that 29 members of the Legislature would make a lot of suggestions and recommendations, the whole process should satisfy our expectations even if at least one good visionary action could be possible by the end of the day's deliberative discussion on the old and new business put together this time.

What to keep, throw out, or create is the bottom line to all these. We should remind our elected representatives that nothing in governing is influenced and caused by accident. Nothing is driven by chance or random order. Like music, it happens because of and by the difference between notes. And, thinking outside the box is related to the analogy that the brake system of a car is not to stop the car but to allow the car to be driven up to its maximum speed possible.

So where does this process take us from its present phase? It should define a desirable future for the CNMI people. And certainly, there is no such thing as a painless pleasure to the common good under a sensible equation of balancing the needs and wants of the CNMI people. Reducing the cost of government is an item of the equation that should be part of the new business agenda in this meeting of elected leaders. Let's put it this way: Who doesn't enjoy roses, but wish they didn't come with thorns or that someone else would do the cutting? The paradigm that someone else has to shoulder the consequences of the harvest of present day recipients of government goods and services is a moral issue that should be front center of this puzzle-solving process being spearheaded by our governor. Pay as you go would make sense, and that means that some sacrifices of value would be in order.

Francisco R. Agulto
Kannat Tabla, Saipan

By **PHILLIP MENDIOLA-LONG**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Phillip Mendiola-Long, AIFA, RF, is president and managing director of ShermanPacific.com and is president and chairman of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce.



This *induced gamer visit* as it is called in the industry can be very damaging to an existing tourist economy such as Saipan enjoys. As stated earlier, visitors to Saipan have very little propensity (willingness or urge) to gamble in the first place, yet when presented with an attractive opportunity (induction) to gamble the visitor most often than not chooses to spend tourism dollars in the casino instead of in the Saipan tourism market. This means lower revenues for DFS, Avis, Mañagaha, the Submarine, etc., as the casinos on Saipan divert and induce the tourist to spend the money in the casino and not in the community.

From a casino operator perspective, Saipan casinos will have a very daunting task. Most if not all packages are pre-sold in Japan, China, and Korea. This means that the tourist's accommodations, basic tour packages and sometimes food are already pre-paid. This leaves a very finite amount of cash for other tourist activities such as optional tours, shopping, and entertainment. If there is only a finite amount of cash left in the tourist's pocket and that tourist's propensity to gamble is very low, how aggressive do you think the casino operator is going to be to pry those dollars destined for other Saipan businesses to be dropped in their casino?






Get familiar with terms such as "match-play," "comps," and "upgrades." These terms will become commonplace on Saipan so that the casinos can pry tourist dollars from the visitor so that they play in the casino and not shop at DFS. In essence, for the next 10 years as the Saipan gaming market attempts to mature, the Saipan casinos will cannibalize the existing tourist economy on Saipan. It must as no gamblers are coming to Saipan, only tourists are.

The Saipan Chamber got it right. Just be sure to remember who let the cannibals in when things go horribly wrong.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼81
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Showers	▲90 ▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲86 ▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼76
Majuro	Mostly Sunny	▲85 ▼80

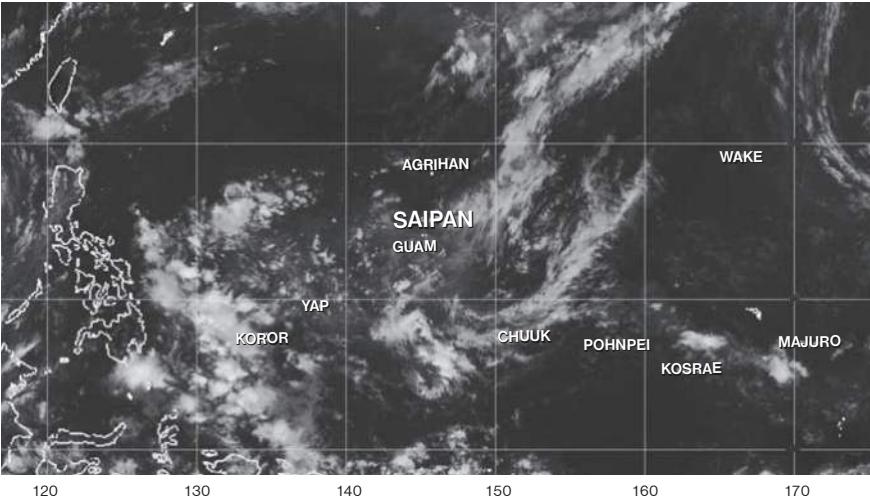
Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	▲61 ▼51
Beijing	Showers	▲91 ▼70
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼82
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85 ▼71
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲65 ▼56
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲86 ▼69
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲61 ▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼80
New York	Thundershowers	▲79 ▼72
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲84 ▼71
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲76 ▼62
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲79 ▼74
Rome	Sunny	▲84 ▼63
Salem	Sunny	▲93 ▼63
San Francisco	Sunny	▲81 ▼66
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲80 ▼74
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲80 ▼67
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲80 ▼74

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:24 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
10:49 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
5:31 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:12 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 1, 2013

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough reaches southeastward from Mindanao through 8N130E and a weak circulation centered south of Koror at 5N135E to end at EQ140E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over the Republic of Palau but west of Yap west of a line from 13N130E to 3N140E. Scattered showers are found farther north within 110 miles of a line from 14N130E to 17N137E. A surface trough runs northeastward from 5N144E to southeast of Guam at 12N148E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are seen south of Guam within 130 miles of a line from 9N143E to 4N148E. Two upper-level lows are centered east of Saipan at 15N153E and south of Minami Tori Shima at 20N155E. Isolated thunderstorms are found near these lows within 80 miles of a line from 16N150E to 18N152E to 25N154E and also within 80 miles of a line from 7N151E to 17N158E. Another near-equatorial trough meanders eastward from southwest of Chuuk at 4N148E through two weak circulations centered north of Kosrae at 7N163E and southeast of Majuro at 5N175E to beyond 180 at 6N. Scattered showers associated with these features are present between Kosrae and the Marshall Islands within 70 miles of a line from 9N161E to 5N170E and also near the date line between 4N and 6N from 177E to 180. An upper-level trough extends northeastward from near Kwajalein at 9N170E through an upper-level low centered east of Wake Island at 20N177E to beyond 25N180. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are evident east of a line from 11N175E to 21N174E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:01 AM	1:52 PM
Wednesday	1:44 AM	2:43 PM
Thursday	2:27 AM	3:33 PM
Friday	3:13 AM	4:22 PM
Saturday	4:00 AM	5:10 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
 - Fax: (670) 235-3740
 - Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
 - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013

DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)			
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)			
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)			
XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7
BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7
GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN			
SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7
VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN			
XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

USCG cutter completes fisheries patrol in Western Pacific

»Cutter also delivers supplies to Pagan

APRAHARBOR, Guam—The Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* returned to home port in Apra Harbor, Guam, Thursday following a six-day exclusive economic zone enforcement patrol.

While underway the cutter patrolled the western-most area of the exclusive economic zone extending 200 nautical miles west of Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana's Island chain, ensuring no foreign fishing vessels were fishing within waters of the United States and that all U.S. fishing vessels were doing so in accordance with the United States' applicable maritime laws. This area has proven to be a very important enforcement zone due to its remoteness, vast size, and relative proximity to foreign nations in the Far East. Enforcement of such a vast and remote area, which is vital in protecting U.S. fisheries economy.

Additionally, during its transit north, the cutter transported supplies to the Pagan Installation Project, which consists of a joint partnership with the Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Geological Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-

tration, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands government. The project, which is being done on the remote island of Pagan in the northern part of the CNMI chain, is being done to install seismic sensors, monitoring stations, and seismic cables in an effort to monitor volcanic activity. To facilitate their efforts, *Assateague* crewmembers met with project managers on Saipan to pick up 700 lbs of five gallon water jugs, 1,200 lbs of cement bags, tents and camping supplies and various sized batteries, which were all then transported to Pagan. These items were greatly needed due to the sheer isolation and remoteness of Pagan, which houses only seven permanent residents and is 170 miles north of Saipan, the closest inhabited island with modern amenities.

"It was great being able to get out there and ensure fishing vessels, foreign and domestic, are obeying the laws dictated within our exclusive economic zone and on the high seas," said Lt. Jared Silverman, commanding officer of *Assateague*. "Along with that, we were glad to play a small part in helping facilitate the project in Pagan and strengthen bonds with our inter-agency partnerships at the same time."

The *Assateague* is a 110-foot



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Coast Guard cutter *Assateague* returns to home port in Apra Harbor, Guam, Thursday following a six-day exclusive economic zone enforcement patrol.

Island-Class patrol boat. Its assigned missions include search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, ports waterways and coastal security and national defense. The *Assateague* has an

area of responsibility equivalent to the size of the continental United States.

The aging 110-foot patrol boats are scheduled to be replaced by the new fast-re-

sponse cutters, which through its size and advanced technology is able to make longer patrols and cruise at faster speeds. The Sentinel-class Fast Response Cutter is a new class

of ships featuring an array of new technologies, communications systems and living quarters for the crew. Four of these ships are already in use in Miami. (USCG)

OAG to tighten enforcement of consumer protection law

The Office of the Attorney General is preparing to increase investigations and enforcement against businesses that are violating the CNMI Consumer Protection Act, according to Consumer Counsel Chassan "Gus" Harb.

The CNMI Consumer Protection Act was enacted to protect both consumers and businesses from deceptive business practices. The Act provides considerable authority

to the Attorney General's Office to coordinate preventative and remedial consumer protection programs and prosecute those who violate the CNMI's consumer protection laws.

The Office of the Attorney General's forthcoming consumer protection investigation and enforcement endeavors will focus on businesses in the CNMI that are selling dangerous products (for example,

pesticides not approved by the EPA), not putting prices on their products, and/or selling expired goods without proper labels or discounts. Under the Consumer Protection Act, businesses must separate all expired products from those that are unexpired, label such products as expired and cannot sell an expired product at more than half of its original retail price. Furthermore,

the law requires businesses to clearly and visibly label the price of all merchandise stocked on shelves.

"This press release serves as a reminder to CNMI businesses about their obligations under the law and that noncompliance will result in action necessary to protect the public," according to an OAG statement yesterday.

The consequences that can re-

sult from violating the Consumer Protection Act are serious. Businesses may face a civil penalty of up to \$2,500 for each violation. Repeat violators may also be subject to a criminal penalty of up to \$2,000 and the possibility of imprisonment for up to six months for each violation.

If you have any questions and concerns about your rights as a consumer or your obligations

as a business under the CNMI Consumer Protection Act, contact Harb at (670) 664-2341. You can also visit the Consumer Protection section of the Attorney General's website at www.oagcnmi.net/consumers.asp for more information and to submit a consumer protection complaint. (OAG)

Malaysian couple sentenced for importing ice

On Thursday, June 27, 2013, Kalidhasdsan Magalingam and Kaali Chellathura were sentenced to 51 months imprisonment for their part in importing 961.3 grams net weight of methamphetamine hydrochloride of 98 percent purity. The penalty generally brings a mandatory 10 years of incarceration, but the defendants qualified for the "safety valve" because this was their first offense and they were merely couriers. They are married, both citizens of Malaysia. They traveled to Hong Kong, received the ice, which was hidden in special shoes and a bra, and attempted to carry it through the airport on Sept. 13, 2012. They were stopped and searched after presenting their passports.

The investigation was conducted by the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Karon V. Johnson. (USAO)

By CAPT. KEN OLA
GUAM NATIONAL GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

About 30 family members of soldiers from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas deployed with the 1st Battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment attended a townhall meeting with leaders from the Guam Army National Guard last night.

The visiting GUNG team was led by Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino, The Adjutant General for the Guam National Guard.

The family members were briefed on programs available for dependent children of deployed soldiers, psychological health resources available for soldiers and families, and the casualty notification process, among others. They also heard a live update from Maj. Joseph Cruz, battalion executive officer, through an Internet audio link to Afghanistan.

Cruz spoke about mission milestones the battalion reached in the two months the unit has been in Afghanistan. These milestones include completion

CNMI soldiers' families meet with GUNG leaders



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Maj. Gen. Benny M. Paulino shares some information with family members of deployed soldiers from the CNMI during a townhall meeting Sunday night at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

of over 2,500 missions, including traveling over 25,000 miles.

Paulino reiterated that even though the family group here in the CNMI is a small one, it is as

important to him and the rest of the leadership, as other family groups.

"My goal is to come see you at least every two months. I

think we have exceeded that goal," he added.

Sixteen soldiers from the CNMI are currently deployed with over 550 soldiers of the

battalion. The battalion's companies are assigned to different regions throughout the country in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan.

Front desk, admin clerks graduate from SHRM/DYS program

The Society for Human Resource Management's Workforce Readiness Initiative program, in conjunction with the Division of Youth Services, recently graduated its third group of trainees for 2013. These job seekers are applying for positions as hotel front desk clerks, administrative clerks, receptionists, and cashiers.

This was the Initiative's third program, graduating eight trainees last Friday, June 28, completing a week of job preparation and administrative skills training in their efforts to prepare themselves for employment in the CNMI's private sector.

"The program has successfully placed many of its earlier graduates with the Hyatt Regency, the Fiesta Resort and Spa, Pacific Islands Club, and the Marianas Resort, as well as several other businesses and government agencies. Hotels and other companies and organizations all have a need for administrative staff," said Frank Gibson, Initiative program manager for SHRM and owner of consulting company HR Support, CNMI. "This was a good group of trainees who will do well in filling the needs of CNMI employers for administrative staff. Many of our trainees had some previous administrative work experience, but some are just entering the workforce. The training they received will give them a better understanding of what to expect on the job and also provided them with basic administrative skills and awareness to make the company's training and orientation easier and more effective. Most of the trainees are also eligible for support from the WIA Work Experience or On-the-Job-Training Programs."

"Our trainees are now going out to businesses and applying for positions. They will have with them résumés prepared as part of this program and a certificate of participation in the Initiative program. I hope our community businesses will recognize the potential of these applicants and give them an opportunity to show their capabilities. They received good



Group 3 completed training on June 28. Evan Hunsberger, far right, training manager for the Pacific Islands Club, assisted program manager Frank Gibson, standing left, with the graduation ceremony. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

solid training from knowledgeable and experienced instructors from the business community. They will all do well," he added. "I urge employers to contact the Initiative office at 233-7476, or me personally at 287-7476 to arrange for interviews."

These graduates comprise the third group of trainees completing the Initiative's 40-hour training program in partnership with the CNMI Division of Youth Services. The DYS/WFRI program is now soliciting openings to help place their graduates, all of whom are U.S. qualified workers. Community businesses needing hotel front desk clerks, administrative clerks, receptionists, retail workers, and cashiers, or employees for similar positions are encouraged to contact WFRI at 233-7476. The program also has food service, waiter/waitress and warehousemen, stockers and other staff available for work from earlier classes.

"The SHRM program is an ongoing positive effort to help U.S. qualified workers join the local workforce. Our efforts, so far, have been successful in

providing good introductory and basic training," said Gibson. "Our participants are ready to join a company and continuing their learning through daily work. They have all shown their sincere intention, attending each day of training, showing up on time, showing interest and participating well. We have already arranged interviews to place several of the trainees, but still need additional openings to provide opportunities for our graduates."

The third SHRM/DYS Initiative program participants were Edel May Almedejar, Geneva Borja, Lunesa Borja, Heather Camacho, Adorasion (Nora) Hix, Pamela Kileleman, Norma Olopai, and Pavlovene Taitano.

The hotel front desk clerk and administrative clerk program included job preparation classes on job applications and résumés, job interviews, equal employment opportunity and sexual harassment, and employer expectations. Skills training classes were provided on customer service, hotel front desk services, general administrative, receptionist and clerical duties, basic computer concepts, basic

cashiering concepts and hotel operations.

Gibson said that the success of the program was also due to the professional skills and the interest of the instructors: Jim Arenovski from Delta Management, Malou Ernest from Tan Holdings, Denise Montenegro and Rosalyn Quintanilla from the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Evan Hunsberger from PIC, Jill Arenovski from Seafix Inc., and Nat Angeles and Soc Nilo Villanueva from Tan Holdings.

SHRM's partnership with the Division of Youth Services in its Workforce Readiness Initiative is funded by a grant awarded to the CNMI SHRM by the CNMI Division of Youth Services, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, funded by a Community Service Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in support of the 2013 Leadership and Economic Opportunity for Self-Sufficiency Program.

SHRM's role in administering this grant through its Workforce Readiness Initiative is to facilitate the employment of U.S. qualified workers through job preparation and skills training, helping them to become

better qualified to enter the CNMI job market. The Initiative consists of a series of one week pre-placement training programs with a combination of general employee enhancement and job specific skills in employment areas where SHRM-member companies and other community businesses have indicated a need for replacement or additional staff.

SHRM seeks the help of the business community to make this program a success and asks that businesses notify the Initiative of types of staff that they might need, so that the Initiative can arrange training programs to help fill these needs. SHRM also asks community businesses to work with the Initiative to place the people trained by the various programs into their organizations. In turn, the Initiative will be working with the Division of Youth Services, the Workforce Investment Agency, and the CNMI Department of Labor to obtain suitable candidates that can receive WIA support to help with salary costs. Companies interested in considering Initiative graduates can also contact Gibson at hrrsupportcnmi@gmail.com in

addition to the phone numbers provided.

As mentioned above, the Workforce Readiness Initiative and the DYS LEOSS program are for the benefit of unemployed U.S. qualified workers. Sign-up for these Initiative programs will be through DYS. If not already registered, it would be to all job-seekers' benefit to register with both WIA and the DOL Employment Services. Interested individuals can also contact Gibson by e-mail at hrrsupportcnmi@gmail.com.

Although the Initiative does not guarantee a job for every participant, it makes every effort to get each graduate employed. Several companies have committed to accepting Initiative graduates and the Initiative will continue to source jobs through its SHRM-member companies and other employers. More than 60 percent of the participants in the earlier 2012 Initiative programs with the Department of Commerce have been placed.

The CNMI SHRM Initiative is managed by HR Support, CNMI, a CNMI-licensed Human Resource Management consulting and training company. (PR)

14 travel agents complete Marianas study tour

Fourteen travel agents from South Korea and a representative of Asiana Airlines completed a Marianas Study Familiarization Tour last week to acquaint themselves with hotels, optional tours, and other tourist attractions on Saipan and Tinian.

Participating travel agencies during the tour that began on June 21, 2013, were Hotel Pass, Mode Tour, Hana Tour, KRT, VG Tour, Onnuri Tour, Lotte Tour, Redcap Tour, Online Tour, Bomul Tour, Tour 2000, Korail Travel, YB Tour, and Interpark Tour.

Each year, the Marianas Visitors Authority and its tour-

ism partners host the Marianas Study Tour to allow travel agents selling the destination to experience the islands firsthand.

"The Marianas Study Tour brings agents and airline reps to the Northern Marianas so they can walk through our hotels, eat at our restaurants, and enjoy our clean and beautiful environment so they can better understanding the appeal and attraction of our destination," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "With this experience, they return to their jobs with more knowledge and enthusiasm to convince consumers to visit Saipan, Tinian, and Rota."

While in the Northern Mariana Islands, the group conducted hotel inspections at Aqua Resort Club, Mariana Resort & Spa, Saipan World Resort, Gold Beach Hotel, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. They also visited Managaha, experienced parasailing, took island tours of Saipan and Tinian, had a beach barbecue dinner, took an ATV and jungle tour, and went shopping at DFS Galleria. The group was welcomed at a dinner hosted by Korean Travel Association of Saipan and also visited the SandCastle Saipan, and JC Cafe. (MVA)

Search underway for missing kayak fisherman in Hawaii

HONOLULU—The Coast Guard and Hawaii County Fire Department are searching for a missing fisherman whose kayak was found adrift near Kawaihae, Hawaii Thursday morning.

Coast Guard watchstanders in the Sector Honolulu command center were notified by the Hawaii County Fire Department of the situation at approximately 11am Thursday. A passing vessel noticed the unmanned green kayak floating approximately 300 yards off the Kawaihae Harbor entrance with fishing gear and a cooler still on board.

The missing man is described as being in his 60's, 6 feet tall, 180 lbs wearing black shorts and a fishing shirt.

An MH-65 dolphin helicopter crew from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point was launched to the scene and continues to search in coordination with Hawaii County Fire Department helicopters and boats. The Coast Guard cutter *Kittiwake* has been sent to assist with the search from Honolulu.

The Coast Guard is using self-locating datum marker buoys and the Search and Res-

cue Optimal Planning System to coordinate the maritime searches. SAROPS was designed to use environmental data to provide the most probable drift of a person in the water or a search object.

The Coast Guard is asking mariners in the area of the Kawaihae and the north west side of Hawaii Island to keep a sharp eye out for the man and to report any sightings to the Coast Guard over VHF marine radio channel 16 or to contact the Sector Honolulu Command Center at (808) 842-2600. (USCG)

Business

US consumers feeling more confident

By KEVIN G. HALL

MCCLATCHY WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—Four years after the end of the Great Recession, the consumer is back—just not with a vengeance.

Consumption continues to show improvement, and yet Americans still clutch their wallets.

“We’re sort of at a glass half-full,” said Ken Goldstein, an economist with the New York-based Conference Board, which measures consumer confidence.

On the plus side, rising home prices, improving jobs numbers and a falling unemployment rate are bolstering how consumers feel about the economy.

“All of that has sort of reaffirmed consumer expectations that this thing would finally turn around,” Goldstein said.

In its latest monthly reading, the Conference Board reported Tuesday that its confidence index hit levels last seen in January 2008, shortly before the financial crisis started.

“This is a good report. Consumer confidence has gained significant traction and is likely

to help retailers in the coming months as the back-to-school shopping season starts heating up,” Chris Christopher, an economist with forecaster IHS Global Insight, said in a note to investors.

Sentiment and behavior, however, are different matters.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis, in its final revision of growth figures for the first three months of this year, said Wednesday that consumption had risen by 2.6 percent, not 3.4 percent as earlier thought. Since consumption drives roughly two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, the bureau shaved its growth estimate for the first quarter from 2.4 percent to a more lukewarm 1.8 percent.

Consumers are spending more but not with gusto, according to the National Retail Federation. In its latest monthly economic outlook, the group said that through May, retail sales—excluding autos and restaurant meals—had risen by 4.8 percent over a 12-month period.

“Despite the sting of higher (payroll) taxes and government spending cuts, consumers are spending. April’s improvement

does not alter our view that current spending behavior remains constrained and cautious,” Jack Kleinhenz, the group’s chief economist, wrote in his June report. “We do expect, however, spending through the second half of 2013 will pick up, offsetting the modest levels seen during the spring.”

Auto sales remain the brightest spot. Car sales in May were up 5.7 percent compared to the same month last year, while light trucks and SUVs were respectively up 10.9 percent and 14.3 percent over May 2012.

“There have been improvements in the standards for the auto loans, and there has been sort of a loosening, and you can see that in sales,” said Daniil Manaenkov, an economic researcher at the University of Michigan, which publishes a quarterly model of the U.S. economy.

Easier bank loans have helped car sales, but the surge in sales of pickups is thought also to be tied to the rebound in the housing sector, which brings more opportunity for tradesmen, Manaenkov said.



In this Wednesday, June 12, 2013 photo, Jani McAllister browses through a sales rack outside Festivity, a boutique in Virginia Highlands, in Atlanta.

Japan business confidence up after almost 2 years

TOKYO (AP)—Business sentiment among major Japanese manufacturers turned positive for the first time in nearly two years, a signal that companies are reacting positively to the weaker yen and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s policies to revive the stagnant economy.

The Bank of Japan’s closely-watched quarterly “tankan” survey for June showed that the index for major manufacturers rose to positive 4 from negative 8 in March. The survey released Monday was the first to be higher than zero since September 2011. A positive reading means more companies are optimistic than pessimistic.

The index for major non-

manufacturers rose to 12 from 6 in the last survey.

The “tankan” also showed that major manufacturers plan to increase capital spending by 6.7 percent in the current fiscal year, while non-manufacturers plan to increase investment by 4.9 percent.

The improved confidence comes amid a weakening yen, which boosts overseas income for Japan’s key exporters, and a series of aggressive economic policies—monetary easing and boosting public workers spending—implemented by Abe since he took office in late December.

The upbeat numbers come after Japan said Friday that industrial production had risen 2 per-

cent in May from April, the fourth monthly increase, while core consumer prices had stopped falling for the first time in seven months. For years, Japan has been dogged by deflation, or falling prices, which can drag on economic growth, and the Bank of Japan has set a goal of 2 percent inflation within the next two years.

Japan’s economy grew at a 4.1 percent annual pace in the first quarter.

The stock market has risen sharply this year, but share prices have fallen back some over the last month amid skepticism about Abe’s plans to enact structural reforms in the economy and a belief that prices rose too far too fast.

Nation

19 firefighters die battling wildfire

YARNELL, Ariz. (AP)—A fast-moving wildfire killed 19 firefighters Sunday afternoon after the blaze raced through an Arizona community, a state forestry official told The Associated Press.

Forestry spokesman Art Morrison said the firefighters were caught by the fire near the central Arizona town of Yarnell about 85 miles northwest of Phoenix. He said the firefighters were forced to deploy their fire shelters, tent-like structures meant to shield firefighters from flames and heat.

Earlier Sunday, the 2,000-acre wildfire prompted evacuations of 50 homes in several communities. Later Sunday afternoon, the Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office expanded the evacuations to include more residents in the town of Yarnell.

Morrison said several homes in the community of Glenisle have been burned. He said no other injuries or deaths have been reported from that area.

About 200 firefighters are fighting the wildfire, which has also forced the closure of parts of state Route 89.

Mike Reichling, Arizona State Forestry Division spokesman, told The Arizona Republic the fire they’re calling in federal help to fight the fire.

Roxie Glover, spokeswoman at Wickenburg Community Hospital, said that the hospital has been told to



Dean Smith watches as the Yarnell Hill Fire encroaches on his home in Glenn Iah on Sunday, June 30, 2013 near Yarnell, Ariz.

expect people with injuries.

In the afternoon, the Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office expanded the evacuations to include residents in the Peoples Valley area and in the town of Yarnell.

The wildfire also forced the closure of parts of state Route 89, the Arizona Department of

Transportation announced. The department did not have an estimate of how long the closure would last but advised drivers to use U.S. 93 or Interstate 17 as alternate routes.

The Red Cross has opened a shelter at Yavapai College in Prescott, the sheriff’s office said.

New NSA spying allegations rile European allies

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration faced a breakdown in confidence Sunday from key foreign allies who threatened investigations and sanctions against the U.S. over secret surveillance programs that reportedly installed covert listening devices in Eu-

ropean Union offices.

U.S. intelligence officials said they will directly discuss with EU officials the new allegations, reported in Sunday’s editions of the German news weekly Der Spiegel. But the former head of the CIA and National Security Agency urged

the White House to make the spy programs more transparent to calm public fears about the American government’s snooping.

It was the latest backlash in a nearly monthlong global debate over the reach of U.S. surveillance that aims to prevent terror attacks. The two programs, both run by the NSA, pick up millions of telephone and Internet records that are routed through American networks each day. They have raised sharp concerns about whether they violate public privacy rights at home and abroad.

Several European officials—including in Germany, Italy, France, Luxembourg and the EU government itself—said the new revelations could scuttle ongoing negotiations on a trans-Atlantic trade treaty that, ultimately, seeks to create jobs and boost commerce by billions annually in what would be the world’s largest free trade area.

“Partners do not spy on each other,” said EU Justice Commissioner Viviane Reding.

Death Valley temps at least tie record

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Temperatures in Death Valley—the legendary hottest place on Earth—at least tied a record Sunday as a heat wave brought triple-digit highs across the West.

The National Weather Service’s thermometer recorded a peak temperature of 128 degrees in Death Valley National Park, which ties the record for the hottest June day anywhere in the country.

However, the Los Angeles Times reports that the National Park Service thermometer—200 yards away—recorded a temperature of 129.9, which shatters the record for June.

In Las Vegas, the mercury shot up to 117 degrees on Sun-

day to tie the city’s record high and to cause more discomfort for residents and tourists in the sprawling desert city.

Since record-keeping began in Las Vegas in 1937, the only other times the temperature reached 117 degrees were on July 19, 2005, and July 24, 1942, according to the National Weather Service.

Death Valley’s the record high of 134 degrees set nearly a century ago on July 10, 1913, stands as the planet’s highest recorded temperature.

Triple-digit heat struck again elsewhere in Southern California, while metropolitan Phoenix saw just a slight drop in temperatures after experiencing record-breaking heat Saturday.

Asia

Bomb attacks kill 49 people in Pakistan



A Pakistani carries a critically injured boy, a victim of a car bombing, from an ambulance upon his arrival at a local hospital in Peshawar, Pakistan, Sunday, June 2013.

QUETTA, Pakistan (AP)—Bombings killed 49 people in three different areas of Pakistan on Sunday, just as Britain's prime minister was in the capital pledging to help to fight extremism.

In the deadliest of the attacks, twin blasts near a Shiite Muslim mosque in Quetta, the capital of southwest Baluchistan province, killed at least 28 people, including nine women and several children, said city police chief Mir Zubair Mahmood. Dozens of others were wounded.

Initial reports indicated a hand grenade caused the first blast, forcing people to run in the direction of the mosque, where a suicide bomber detonated his explosives, said another police officer, Fayaz Sumbal said.

Security forces prevented the bomber from entering the mosque, or the death toll would have been higher, said the provincial Home Secretary Akbar Durrani. Radical Sunni Muslims have stepped up attacks in the past two years against minority Shiites, whom they con-

sider to be heretics.

Local TV video showed ambulances rushing victims to the hospital and wheeling them inside on stretchers. Some of the bodies were covered with white sheets. Relatives of the victims frantically entered the emergency room to inquire about their loved ones. Security forces cordoned off the area of the attack. The walls of shops near the blast were pockmarked with holes caused by small steel balls packed with the explosives to cause maximum death and destruction.

China boosts security in Xinjiang after bloodshed

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese paramilitary troops began round-the-clock patrols Sunday in the country's northwestern region of Xinjiang following a series of bloody clashes that have killed at least 56 people over the last several months.

Police also released new details about a clash Wednesday that authorities said left 35 people dead, including 11 attackers, blaming it on a violent gang of Muslim extremists.

The order for the patrols by the People's Armed Police was issued by the ruling Communist Party's top law enforcement official, Meng Jianzhu, at an

emergency meeting late Saturday in Xinjiang's regional capital, Urumqi. The action came just days ahead of the July 5 anniversary of a 2009 riot between Xinjiang's native Uighur people and Han Chinese migrants in the city that left nearly 200 people dead.

Troops must patrol in all weather conditions, "raise their visibility, maintain a deterrent threat and strengthen the public's sense of security," Meng said, according to a notice posted to the Public Security Ministry's website.

Bordering Central Asia, Afghanistan and Pakistan,

Xinjiang (shihhn-jeeahng) has long been home to a simmering rebellion against Chinese rule among parts of the Uighur (WEE'-gur) population opposed to large-scale Han Chinese migration and angered by strict communist restrictions on Islam and their Turkic language and cultural institutions.

However, recent incidents point to a growing level of violence and the apparently growing influence of radical Islam, in spite of a massive security presence spread across the vast region, which is more than twice the size of Texas.

be able to choose their leader.

5 dead in northern China murder-suicide

BEIJING (AP)—A man in northern China killed four members of a family, including a 7-year-old boy, before committing suicide in an apparent feud between former in-laws, China's official news agency said Sunday. The 60-year-old man, identified only by his surname, Zhao, went to the home of a man surnamed Zan, whose daughter had once been married to Zhao's son, late Saturday evening, the Xinhua News Agency reported. Zhao then killed Zan and Zan's wife, daughter-in-law and grandson with a hammer and kitchen knife he brought with him, the report said. Zhao then called home to tell his family he'd obtained vengeance, before killing himself at the scene, Xinhua said.

World

Egypt erupts with protests demanding Morsi ouster

CAIRO (AP)—Hundreds of thousands thronged the streets of Cairo and cities around the country Sunday and marched on the presidential palace, filling a broad avenue for blocks, in an attempt to force out the Islamist president with the most massive protests Egypt has seen in 2 1/2 years of turmoil.

In a sign of the explosive volatility of the country's divisions, young protesters mainly from the surrounding neighborhood pelted the main headquarters of President Mohammed Morsi's Muslim Brotherhood with stones and firebombs, and at one point a fire erupted at the gates of the walled villa. During clashes, Brotherhood supporters barricaded inside opened fire on the attackers, and activists said at least five protesters were killed.

At least five more anti-Morsi protesters were killed Sunday in clashes and shootings in southern Egypt.

Fears were widespread that the collisions between the two sides could grow more violent in coming days. Morsi made clear through a spokesman that he would not step down and his Islamist supporters vowed not to allow protesters to remove one of their own,



Opponents of Egypt's Islamist President Mohammed Morsi wave national flags and light fireworks during a protest outside the presidential palace, in Cairo, Egypt, Sunday, June 30, 2013.

brought to office in a legitimate vote. During the day Sunday, thousands of Islamists massed not far from the presidential palace in support of Morsi, some of them prepared for a fight with makeshift armor and sticks.

The protesters aimed to show by sheer numbers that the country has irrevocably turned against Morsi, a year to the day after he was inaugurated as Egypt's first freely elected president. But throughout the day and even up to midnight at the main rallying sites, fears of rampant violence did not materialize.

Instead the mood was largely festive as protesters at giant an-

ti-Morsi rallies in Cairo's central Tahrir Square and outside the Ittihadiya palace spilled into side streets and across boulevards, waving flags, blowing whistles and chanting.

Fireworks went off overhead. Men and women, some with small children on their shoulders, beat drums, danced and sang, "By hook or by crook, we will bring Morsi down." Residents in nearby homes showered water on marchers below—some carrying tents in preparation to camp outside the palace—to cool them in the summer heat, and blew whistles and waved flags in support.

Croatia celebrates its EU membership

ZAGREB, Croatia (AP)—Fireworks lit the sky and festive crowds gathered on the streets to mark Croatia's entry Monday into the European Union, a major milestone some 20 years after the country won independence in a bloody civil war that shook the continent.

Croatia became the 28th EU member, the bloc's first addition since Bulgaria and Romania joined in 2007. Though enthusiasm for the country's achievement has been dampened by the EU's financial turmoil, it is a historic turning point for the

small Balkan nation of 4.2 million, which endured years of carnage after declaring independence from the former Yugoslavia in 1991.

"As midnight struck, your country crossed an important threshold," European Council President Herman Van Rompuy told the cheering crowd in Croatia's capital Zagreb. "It will change the life of this nation for good."

"In the history of a nation, there are a few events such as this one," Croatia's President Ivo Josipovic said. "The accession of Croatia to the European Union is confirmation

that each one of us belongs to the European democratic and cultural set of values."

A decade back, when Croatia started negotiating the entry, the once war-torn country was overjoyed at the prospect of becoming a member of the European elite. With the EU in deep financial trouble and Croatia's own economy in recession for five consecutive years, the excitement has dimmed.

Thousands of people waving small EU and Croatian flags nonetheless joined celebrations across the country, including in Zagreb's main square.

Obama asserts Mandela's values are Africa's future

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP)—Challenging African youth to seize a "moment of great promise," President Barack Obama declared Sunday that the future of the young and growing continent still rests in ailing South African leader Nelson Mandela's vision for equality and opportunity. Seeking to carve out his own piece of that legacy, Obama unveiled an ambitious initiative to double electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa, vowing to bring "light where there is darkness."

The president's address at the University of Cape Town capped an emotionally charged

day in this picturesque coastal city, including a solemn visit to the Robben Island prison where Mandela was confined for 18 of his 27 years in captivity. Obama stood stoically with his family in Mandela's cramped cell and peered across the lime quarry where Mandela toiled each day, causing the damage to his lungs that led to his latest hospital stint.

"Nelson Mandela showed us that one man's courage can move the world," Obama said during his evening speech at the university. He was flanked by a diverse array of students, underscoring Mandela's vision

for a unified "rainbow nation" for the country once led by a white racist government.

In the flagship address of his weeklong trip to Africa, Obama outlined a U.S. policy toward the continent that focuses on increasing the region's ability to support itself economically, politically and militarily. Harkening back to a prominent theme from his 2009 speech in Ghana—Obama's only other trip to Africa as president—he said Africans must take much of the responsibility for achieving that goal, although he pledged American assistance.

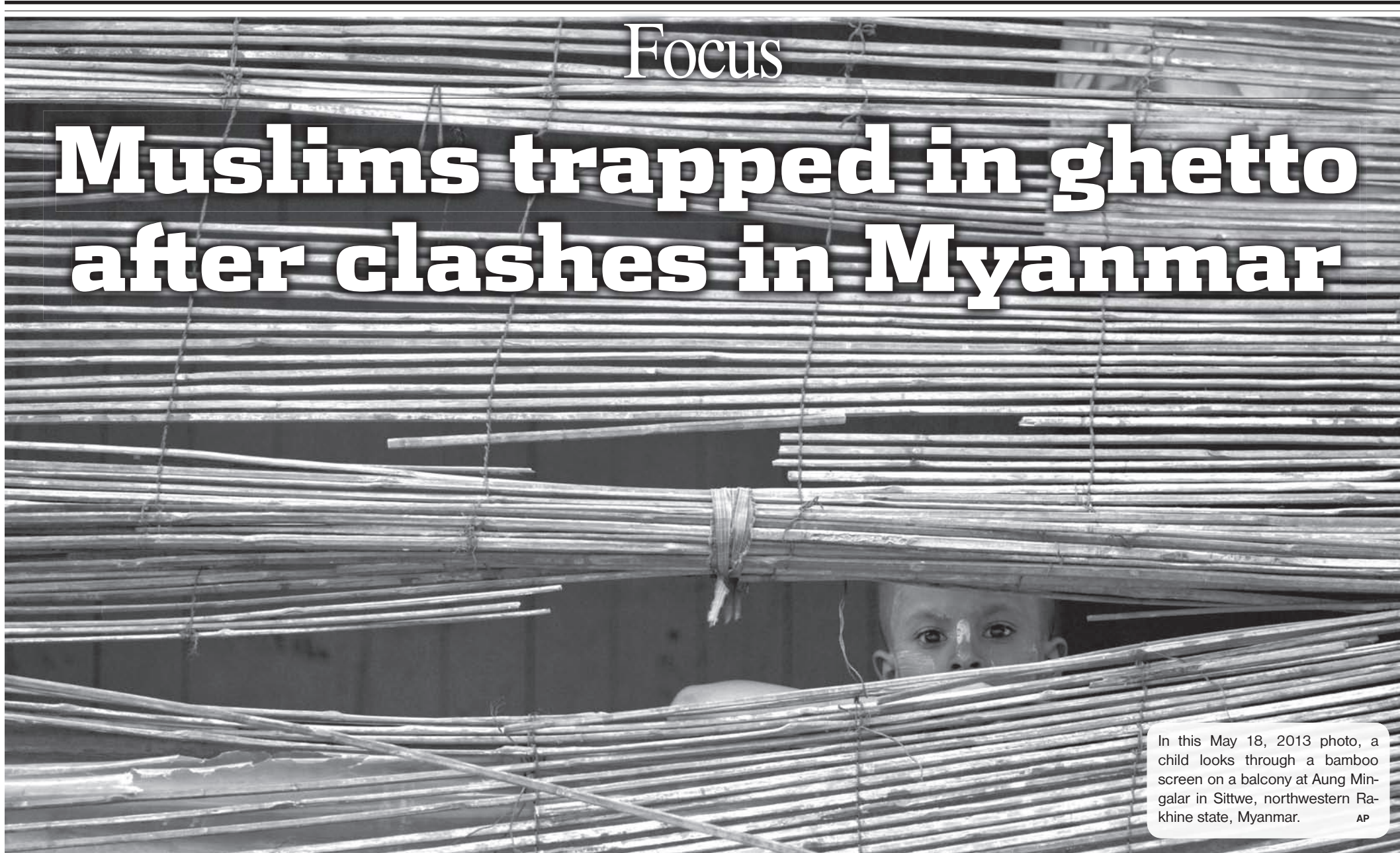
ASIAN BRIEFS

Hong Kong to hold big annual democracy protest

HONG KONG (AP)—Tens of thousands of Hong Kongers are expected to take to the streets in a protest demanding their widely disliked Beijing-backed leader resign. Tensions between Hong Kong and the mainland are rising 16 years after the city ceased to be a British colony and came back under Beijing's control. Those marching Monday will express their unhappiness about leader Leung Chun-ying, who has been beset by one controversy after another since taking office a year ago. He was not elected, instead picked by a committee of pro-Beijing elites. March organizer Civil Human Rights Front said it was expecting 100,000 people to take part in the protest. Group member Andrew Shum said "many people feel very angry" and have been "waiting too long" to

Focus

Muslims trapped in ghetto after clashes in Myanmar



In this May 18, 2013 photo, a child looks through a bamboo screen on a balcony at Aung Mingalar in Sittwe, northwestern Rakhine state, Myanmar. AP

Editor's Note: This story is part of "Portraits of Change," a yearlong series by The Associated Press examining how the opening of Myanmar after decades of military rule is—and is not—changing life in the long-isolated Southeast Asian country.

SITTWE, Myanmar (AP)—From inside the neighborhood that has become their prison, they can look over the walls and fences and into a living city.

Stores are open out there. Sidewalk restaurants are serving bottles of Mandalay beer. There are no barbed-wire roadblocks marking neighborhood boundaries, no armed policemen guarding checkpoints. In the rest of Sittwe, this city of 200,000 people along Myanmar's coast, no one pays a bribe to take a sick baby to the doctor.

But here it's different.

Aung Mingalar is just a few square blocks. You can walk it in 10 minutes, stopping only when you come to the end of the road—7/8 any road—and a policeman with an assault rifle waves you back inside, back into a maze of shuttered storefronts, unemployment and boredom.

In the evenings, when bats fly through the twilight, the men gather for prayers at Aung Mingalar's main mosque, the one that wasn't destroyed in last year's violence.

Zahad Tuson is among them. He had spent his life pedaling fares around this state capital, a fraying town, built by British colonials, full of bureaucrats and monsoon-battered concrete buildings. Now his bicycle rickshaw sits at home unused. He hasn't left Aung Mingalar in nearly a year.

"We could go out whenever we wanted!" he says. His voice is a mixture of anger and wonder.

What has caused this place to become a ghetto that no one can leave

and few can enter? A basic fact: Aung Mingalar is a Muslim neighborhood.

A year after sectarian violence tore through Myanmar, the fury of religious pogroms has hardened into an officially sanctioned sectarian divide, a foray into apartheid-style policies that has turned Aung Mingalar into a prison for Sittwe's Muslims and that threatens this country's fragile transition to democracy.

Muslims, Tuson says, are not welcome in today's Myanmar.

It's simple, he says: "They want us gone."

■ ■ ■

For generations, Aung Mingalar existed as just another tangle of streets and alleys in the heart of Sittwe. It was a Muslim quarter; everybody knew that. But the distinction seldom meant much.

Until suddenly it meant everything.

Last year, violence twice erupted between two ethnic groups in this part of Myanmar: the Rakhine, who are Buddhist, and a Muslim minority known as the Rohingya. While carnage was widespread on both sides of the religious divide, it was Muslims who suffered most, and who continue to suffer badly more than a year later.

Across Rakhine state, more than 200 people were killed, 70 percent of them Muslim. In Sittwe, where Muslims were once almost half the population, five of the six Muslim neighborhoods were destroyed. Over 135,000 people remain homeless in Rakhine state, the vast majority of them Muslims forced into bamboo refugee camps that smell of dust and wood smoke and too many people living too close together.

The troubles here were, at least initially, driven by ethnicity as much as religion. To the Rakhine, who dominate this state, as well as to Myanmar's central government, the Rohingya are here illegally, "Bengalis" whose families slipped across the nearby border

from what is now Bangladesh. Historians say Rohingya have been here for centuries, though many did come more recently. Their modern history has been a litany of oppression: the riots of 1942, the mass expulsions of 1978, the citizenship laws of 1982.

What started with the Rohingya has evolved into a broader anti-Muslim movement, helping ignite a series of attacks across Myanmar—from Meiktila in the country's center, where Buddhist mobs beat dozens of Muslim students to death in March, to Lashio near the Chinese border, where Buddhist men swarmed through the city burning scores of Muslim-owned stores in May.

The violence is about religion and ethnicity, but also about what happens when decades of military rule begin giving way in the nation once known as Burma, and old political equations are clouded by the complexities of democracy.

In 2010, political change finally came to Myanmar, a profoundly isolated nation long ruled by a series of mysterious generals. Opposition leader and Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi was freed from house imprisonment. National elections were held. Former political prisoners became politicians.

Amid the tumult—and with the military still wielding immense power behind the scenes—old animosities and new politicians flourished. Ethnic groups formed powerful regional parties. Buddhist nationalists, with a deep-seated suspicion of Muslims, moved from the fringes into the mainstream.

Political frustration fed on economic frustration, with millions of poor rural residents flocking to Myanmar's cities only to find continued poverty in ever-growing slums. In a country that is about 90 percent Buddhist, Myanmar's Muslims, who number as little as 4 percent of the population, became political bogeymen.

U Shwe Maung, a top official with

the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party, the state's most powerful party, will tell you about the problems with the Rohingya: They have too many children, they are angling for political clout, they claim to be citizens.

"We are not willing to live with them," the onetime high-school English teacher says in his quiet voice. He's an avuncular man, friendly and unfailingly polite. "They want to Muslimize this land. They want power."

Anti-Muslim sentiment has been magnified by an increasingly virulent strain of Buddhist nationalism, as a once-obscure group of monks nurtures populist fears of a growing Muslim threat. Muslims are criminals, they say, a "poison" driving up land prices and pushing aside the Buddhist working class. Crowds pack monasteries and prayer halls to hear the monks' speeches. Recordings are sold in sidewalk stalls along Myanmar's streets.

"They will destroy our country, our religion, our people. They will destroy the next-generation Buddhist women, since their aim is to mix their blood with ours," a popular monk, Ashin Tayzaw Thar Ra, said in a speech earlier this year. "Soon, Buddhists will have to worship in silence and fear."

■ ■ ■

In Aung Mingalar, they know all about fear.

The neighborhood is where Maung Than Win once served hundreds of meals a day at the little restaurant his father had opened, and where residents gathered at the Chat Cafe to gossip in the cool of twilight. It is where dozens of boys showed up every day for classes at Hafeez Skee's Islamic school, but most children attended secular schools.

It was widely seen as the wealthiest of Sittwe's Muslim neighborhoods, but it was hardly an island of economic isolation. It was a place where day laborers built thatched huts for themselves, and rich businessmen, their fortunes often

made on small fleets of wooden fishing boats that troll the Bay of Bengal, built sprawling houses covered in shiny green tiles. A few families farmed gardens of watercress in a swampy area between some of the alleys. The main streets, once brick or cobblestone, had turned to dirt over the years.

"My grandfather was from Aung Mingalar. My father was from Aung Mingalar. I'm from Aung Mingalar," says Win, his teeth stained red from years of chewing betel nuts. At 32 he has spent nearly his entire life working at his restaurant, the Love Tea Shop. It filled with people every day, particularly after prayers at the mosque. "I just want to stay as long as I can."

Not that everything was perfect. Buddhist and Muslim residents of Sittwe agree at least on that.

There were fights, though they tended to be just one person against another. In the last sectarian violence, in 2001, only one person died in Sittwe. The last widespread bloodshed was during World War II, when the Rohingya backed the British colonial forces and the Rakhine supported the Japanese. Hundreds of people were killed.

"I had heard about the troubles then," says Ferus Ahmad, a pharmacist. "We thought something like this could never happen again."

But it did. It began last year on May 28, with the rape and murder of a Buddhist woman by a group of Rohingya men in a village a few hours from here. Days later, a bus carrying Muslim travelers was surrounded by a Buddhist mob and ten Muslims were killed. Five days after that, Rohingya mobs attacked Rakhine near the Bangladesh border. It's unclear how many people died.

With fear spiraling on both sides, trouble came to Sittwe. Over five days, Rakhine and Rohingya mobs battled one another. By the end, hundreds of

See **MUSLIMS** on Next Page

Overdrive

Nissan's new Versa Note emphasizes space over speed

By SUSAN CARPENTER
THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

Nissan is focusing a lot of attention on a single door—and it isn't the one that provides access to the driver's seat. It's the door that swings up rather than out, the hatchback that defines the new 2014 Versa Note as a portal to all sorts of fifth-door fun.

Skimboard or bicycle, hiba-chi or tent, the Versa Note is for drivers who enjoy the destination more than the journey. It's an econo-car for active, child-free lifestyles, with a bargain-basement price tag and better fuel economy to help preserve precious cash for three-day weekends.

While the Versa sedan remains the least expensive entry car in the U.S. market, with a starting price of \$11,990 excluding destination, the new Versa Note hatchback is a slightly more upscale model with extensive style and technology upgrades and a price that is hundreds of dollars less than the outgoing model. It starts at \$13,990.

Nissan last offered the five-passenger Versa as a hatchback for the 2012 model year, but it's upping its game for an entry-car market that is expected to grow 28 percent in the next four years.

As the Note, the Versa hatchback is a lot more (Honda) Fit. Not only has it shed 300 pounds in its re-do, the car's profile has been aerodynamically optimized with a more dramatically raked windshield, tapered roofline and contoured body panels that simultaneously up its curb appeal while helping the car achieve an impressive EPA-estimated fuel economy rating of 40 mpg highway.

It's powered with a 1.6-liter, 4-cylinder engine that uses a



NISSAN/MCT

The 2014 Nissan Versa Note is a new, slightly more upscale version of the Versa, the least expensive entry car in the U.S. market.

more fuel-efficient fuel-injector system that sprays the gas in a finer, Chanel No. 5 mist and Nissan's second-generation continuously variable transmission. That helps the Note achieve 17 percent greater highway fuel economy than the prior model but, from a driving enthusiast perspective, feel collectively limp and unresponsive.

For entry car buyers who use their vehicles as utilitarian appliances, rather than adrenaline enhancements, the Note's greatest attributes aren't about performance. They're about accommodating an active lifestyle. At a ride and drive event earlier this month to introduce the car, Nissan displayed the vehicle stuffed with a surfboard, tent, wet suit, overnight bag, lawn chair and jug of water, which still left enough room for three inhabitants with the rear seat folded down 60 percent.

Despite losing 6 inches in length, the Versa Note has re-

tained its class-leading 40.8 inches of front-seat headroom and 38.3 inches of rear-seat legroom, leaving more space for those with long femur bones than many American Airlines passengers are likely to have in the near future. The spaciousness of the rear seat was underscored when I lowered the back seats to open up its 21.4 cubic feet of cargo space. The rear seat headrests didn't snag on the front seats; they fell forward as easily as Jennifer Lawrence on her way to claim the Oscar.

Instead of a screen to disguise garment bags and other weekend-getaway accouterment drivers might be stowing, the Note uses a new Divide-N-Hide system in the rear cargo area that splits the floor in two levels, allowing passengers to stow laptops and other objects no taller than 5 inches in a sub-floor, out of view of passersby.

The Note, which went on sale last weekend, is just the latest

entry vehicle to trickle down features that are typically seen on larger, more expensive cars. A push-button start is standard across all three versions of the Note, including its least expensive S with a manual transmission. Cruise control and better fuel economy cost an extra \$1,250. Bluetooth and a more

Ford to fix throttle on older Taurus, Sable sedans

DETROIT (AP)—Ford has agreed to fix sticky throttles on nearly 468,000 Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable sedans.

Because of the company's decision, U.S. safety regulators have closed an investigation into the problem.

Last fall, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration began investigating cars from the 2000 through 2003 model years. The safety agency and Ford received 100 complaints about throttles on cars with 3-Liter, four-valve Duratec V-6 engines.

NUTS & BOLTS

2014 Versa Note

- Powertrain: Fuel-injected, 1.6-liter, 4-cylinder engine, 4 valves per cylinder, DOHC, continuously variable transmission
- Horsepower: 109 at 6,000 rpm
- Torque: 107 pound-feet at 4,400 rpm
- Curb weight: 2,460 pounds
- Wheelbase: 102 inches
- Overall length: 163 inches
- Cargo space: 21.4 cubic feet
- EPA estimated fuel economy: 31 mpg city, 40 mpg highway, 35 mpg combined
- Base price: \$13,990
- Price as tested, including destination charge: \$19,280

tactile leather-wrapped steering wheel add an additional \$750 to the price.

My test car was the most expensive \$19,280 SV SL Tech version, which includes heated front seats, as well as a rear-view monitor, 5.8-inch center console display screen, USB port, Bluetooth hands-free phone and Navigation, the latter of which is only accessible through a paired, Bluetooth-enabled smartphone. It also incorporates a new Around View Monitor that uses cameras to display the car's four corners and help drivers angle in without scuffing their rims or paint.

While the center console controls could be presented more attractively, the cloth seats were comfortable and the cabin was quiet enough at speed that I could have a conversation without raising my voice. To reduce outside noise from invading the cabin, the Note uses an acoustic windshield, high-density carpet and double-sealed doors, among other techniques. Still, on rough asphalt, road noise was apparent.

For an inexpensive car, the Versa Note doesn't feel especially cheap—unless drivers value getting to where they're going with speed.

ed Sunday on its website.

Ford says in a letter to dealers that they should replace throttle cables that have missing retention tabs. All the vehicles will get a reinforcement clip that will better hold the cables in place.

Ford was to mail letters to owners starting June 24, and dealers were told to repair vehicles even if the owners don't have the letters.

The Ford Taurus and Mercury Sable and are nearly identical cars. Ford ended the Mercury brand more than two years ago.

The agency says Ford agreed to a "customer satisfaction campaign" and will fix problems for free.

Ford says the throttle cables can be damaged or disconnected during maintenance. Five crashes were reported, but no injuries.

Dealers will inspect the cables and add reinforcement to tabs that hold the cables in place. If the tabs are missing, the whole cable will be replaced.

NHTSA closed its investigation this past Wednesday, the agency said in documents post-

MUSLIMS

From Page 17

Rakhine homes had been destroyed, as had nearly every Rohingya neighborhood. Today, other than Aung Mingalar, Muslim Sittwe is little more than destroyed mosques and once-crowded communities grown over with grass and weeds, completely empty of residents.

During the street battles, the women and children of Aung Mingalar were put into a mosque for safety, while the men protected the neighborhood's edges. Then something unusual happened: The security forces arrived to help.

Across Myanmar, the army and the police have done little to protect Muslims through a year of violence, and rights groups say they have often joined in the attacks. It's still unclear why it

was different in Aung Mingalar.

But while they arrived as protectors, those soldiers soon became jailers. Today, the security forces enforce the official ghetto. And the dominant story line remains: Not only did Muslims never need protection from Buddhists, but they destroyed their own neighborhoods.

"The Bengalis lit their own houses on fire, because they knew they would get another house" in the refugee camps, says U Win Myaing, the Rakhine state assistant director for communications. "Plus, they thought the fires would spread to Rakhine areas and burn those houses down."

Increasingly, such stories about Muslims are believed across Myanmar.

■■■

Today, Aung Mingalar is consuming itself.

House after wooden house has been torn down for fire-

wood. The dead, who can no longer be taken out to the Muslim cemetery, are buried behind the mosque. Food, which comes from occasional government handouts and the twice-weekly markets some residents can attend, is scarce and expensive.

There are no stores left open, just a few food stalls and a makeshift pharmacy that sells laxatives and herbal headache medicine.

There are also few heroes. Residents say wealthy Rohingyas have bought land from poorer or more desperate neighbors. While the authorities occasionally allow some Rohingya into the neighborhood to sell supplies, they charge double what customers pay on the outside.

"People aren't competing with each other," says Win, the tea shop owner, "but they are not working together either."

Officials refuse to say

when—or if—Aung Mingalar will be allowed to rejoin the rest of Sittwe.

There is one way to get out. The bribe to pass the checkpoints is 10,000 kyats (about \$10) each way, according to current and former residents. That's a lot of money here, but plenty of people are paying it. While no one is sure of the neighborhood's size—aid workers say it was probably about 4,000 before the violence—it's now dropping fast.

"When everything they have is gone, people just want to leave," Win says.

Thousands have left Myanmar, paying smugglers to slip them into Malaysia or Thailand. But most head to the refugee camps outside towns, endless rows of bamboo shelters filled with Rohingya. Many of the camps are restricted areas—residents are not allowed to come

and go as they wish—but most are also large enough to have their own economies.

Across Myanmar, many Muslims are now more closed-off than they once were, barricading their neighborhoods at night against possible attackers. But so far, at least, Aung Mingalar is the only sealed ghetto.

Ahmad, the pharmacist, lived in Aung Mingalar for 38 years. Until the violence of 2012, he owned a pharmacy in Sittwe's main market, a warren of shops near the port. But soon after the trouble started, Aung Mingalar was sealed and Ahmad couldn't get to his shop. The medicines expired. His customers went elsewhere. The shop has been closed for months.

Ahmad wonders at what has happened to his country. The 2010 transition was supposed to bring change, but he's seen nothing to encourage him.

"We now have a president, a government," says Ahmad, his button-down shirt faded from so many washings. "But it's like there is no ruler."

For many like him, the main sustenance now is memories. That is what keeps Ahmad going.

A couple of times a week, back when things were good, Ahmad would close his pharmacy, pick up his wife and two children at home and head to the Sittwe beach, barely a mile away. Now, only Rakhine are allowed at the beach and Ahmad has left the neighborhood where he grew up. His family is still there, but he has moved to the refugee camps, where he seeks work and tries to remember what normal felt like.

"We'd just walk along the beach," he says of those family outings. "I dream about that sometimes."

Life & Style

Court wins draw big crowds to gay pride parades

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Gay rights supporters crowded parade routes in San Francisco, New York and other major U.S. cities Sunday to celebrate what once was unimaginable—two Supreme Court victories on same-sex marriage.

The high court gave celebrants one more reason to cheer Sunday when Justice Anthony Kennedy rejected a last-ditch effort by opponents to stop gay marriages in California.

Among the thousands at San Francisco's event, now in its 43rd year, were scores of teenage girls, opposite-sex couples and families with children.

"You can feel the smiles," Graham Linn, 42, of Oakland said as he stood on a three-foot-tall building ledge surveying crowds 10-deep on the sidewalks. "All around you there is a release. There is a vindication, and you can feel it."

The biggest applause went up for the two newlywed couples whose legal challenge of Proposition 8 made it possible for Californians to wed.

The couples—Kris Perry and Sandy Stier of Berkeley, and Paul Katami and Jeff Zarrillo of Burbank—waved from convertibles as a group of people carried cartoon-style signs that read, "Prop. 8-Kapow!"

Human Rights Campaign President Chad Griffin, who orchestrated the lawsuit, and screenwriter Dustin Lance Black, who won an Academy Award for the movie about the slain gay rights leader Harvey Milk, marched with them.

"It's so historic," Jeff Margolis, 58, said. "So many of us could never imagine this would happen, that people would be able to do what they want for the rest of their lives."

Loud cheers went to House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and state Attorney General Kamala Harris—straight politicians who have been vocal advocates of same-sex marriage.

San Francisco's parade lineup illustrated how mainstream support for same-sex marriage has become. Companies such as Facebook and supermarket chain Safeway were represented. Police officers and sheriff's deputies marched while holding hands.

There was also a group that called itself "Mormons for Mar-



Proposition 8 plaintiffs Kris Perry, left, and Sandy Stier ride in San Francisco's 43rd annual gay pride parade Sunday, June 30, 2013.

riage" that drew enthusiastic applause. The Mormon Church was one of the main sponsors of Proposition 8, the 2008 voter initiative that outlawed same-sex marriage in California.

The Supreme Court on Wednesday struck down Proposition 8 and also invalidated part of a 1996 federal law that denied spousal benefits to gay couples. On Sunday morning, Kennedy denied a last-ditch request from

the sponsors of Proposition 8, who argued that a lower court on Friday prematurely allowed gay marriages to continue in the nation's most populous state.

The group that maintains marriage should be between a man and woman said the lower court should have waited until the Supreme Court ruling is finalized late in July.

"Everyone on all sides of the marriage debate should agree

that the legal process must be followed," attorney Austin R. Nimocks of Alliance Defending Freedom said in a statement Sunday. "The more than 7 million Californians that voted to enact Proposition 8 deserve nothing short of the full respect and due process our judicial system provides."

San Francisco City Hall remained open on Sunday so couples who wanted to marry

could obtain their licenses. Every other clerk in California's 58 counties will be required to issue same-sex marriage licenses starting Monday.

Parade organizers planned to hold a VIP reception for the newlyweds following the parade.

The parade in New York City, where the first pride march was held 44 years ago to mark the one-year anniversary of the Stonewall Inn riots that kicked off the modern gay rights movement, also was a sort of victory lap for Edith Windsor, the 84-year-old widow who challenged the federal Defense of Marriage Act after she was forced to pay \$363,053 on the estate of her late wife.

Windsor, who was picked as a grand marshal of New York's parade months before she won her case before the Supreme Court last week, walked up Fifth Avenue during the event and recalled watching it on television in past years with her wife, Thea Spyer, before Spyer died in 2009.

"I love it obviously," she said. "If someone had told me 50 years ago that I would be the marshal of New York City gay pride parade in 2013 at the age of 84, I never would have believed it."

In Loving Memory of our beloved Husband and Father

Marcelino Deleon Guerrero Camacho

Fondly Known as "Uncle Max"

Born on June 6, 1938 and called to his eternal rest on June 28, 2013

Predeceased by:

Parents: Juan Campus Camacho and Soledad Deleon Guerrero Camacho

Parents in Law: Blas Pangelinan Tenorio and Guadalupe Pangelinan Tenorio

Brothers and Sisters & In Laws: Jose DLG Camacho, Rosalia C. and Lorenzo T. Flores, Leonardo DLG. and Rita T. Camacho, Magdalena C. Benavente, Dionicio C. Torres, Roman M. and Dolores T. Benavente, and Jesus P. Mafnas

Survived by:

Spouse: Cecilia Tenorio Camacho

Children: Jeffrey T. and Sonia A. Camacho (Guadalupe and Soledad), Bertha C. and Patrick D. Leon Guerrero (Cylia, Keena, Joaquin, Jose, Patricia [Amari], Maria and Patrick Jr.), Ray T. and Tayna B. Camacho (Marcelino, Luke, Noah, Seoni and Tayzaly), James T. and Rosemary C. Camacho (Winona [MJ], Naomi, Marcus and Mathew), Debra T. Camacho (Cecilia), Richard P. and Regina Kautz (Claire, Peter and Adele) - Marlet Legaspi (Richard, David, Thomas, Richelle and Michelle) and Pale Ryan Jeminez

Sister: Margarita C. Sablan

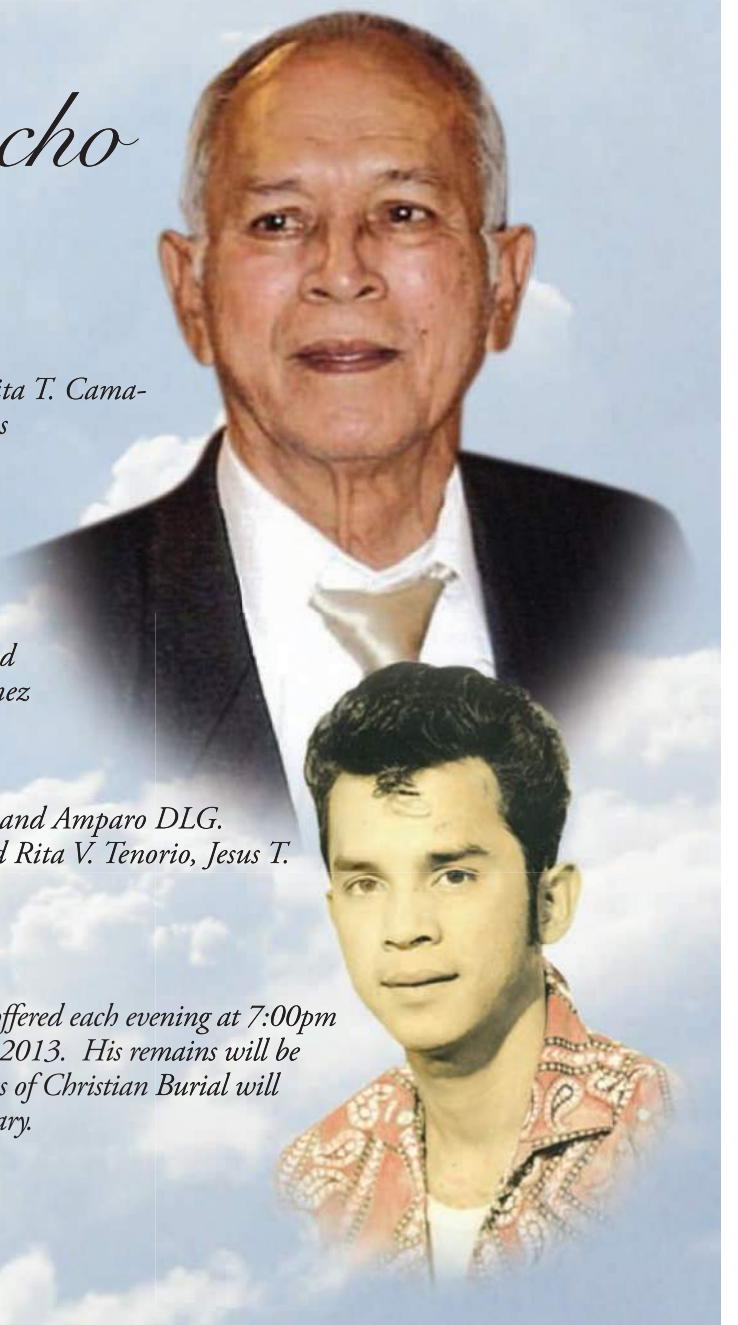
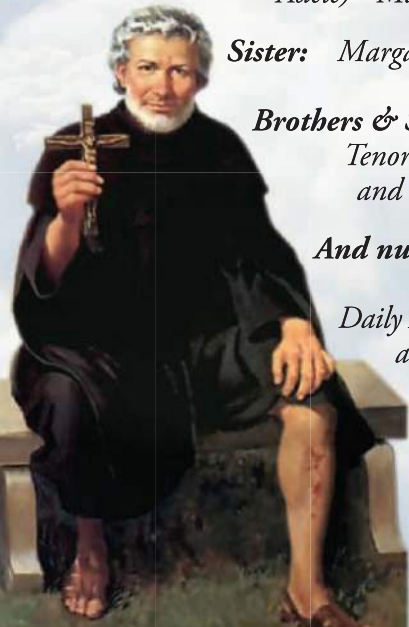
Brothers & Sisters in Law: Luis C. Benavente, Shirley Camacho, Victoria B. Camacho, Jose P. and Amparo DLG. Tenorio, Merced T. Torres, Pedro P. and Sophia P. Tenorio, Susana T. Mafnas, Juan P. and Rita V. Tenorio, Jesus T. and Ramona T. Attao

And numerous nieces and nephews

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated each morning at 6:00am and nightly Holy Rosary offered each evening at 7:00pm at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2013. His remains will be taken from the CHC Morgue to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Interment Service will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers

*Dangkulo na sis yu'us maase. Thank You.
Cecilia Tenorio Camacho, Children and Family*



Timberlake, Wilson, Monae shine at BET Awards

Who won video of the year again?

The BET Awards were barely about the actually awards as wild performances stole the night. They also didn't present the top honor Sunday.

Janelle Monae ended the three and a half hour-plus event with a top notch performance of "Q.U.E.E.N." alongside Erykah Badu, who brought a white poodle onstage. It was just one of the night's best performances, which also featured stolen moments from a seductive Ciara, a slick Miguel, a random—but welcomed—reggae set and a playful Justin Timberlake with an even more playful Charlie Wilson.

Timberlake took a backseat to the soul singer, joining Wilson onstage for a medley of his solo and Gap Band hits.

Stevie Wonder, Jamie Foxx, Pharrell, Snoop Dogg and India.Arie were also part of the tribute to 60-year-old Wilson, who earned the lifetime achievement award.

"Charlie Wilson is soul music. His impact colors the work of many artists, which is basically my nice way of saying I and a lot of other artists have stolen from him," Timberlake said when presenting Wilson the award.

Wilson's lively stage presence



From left, Pharrell Williams, Justin Timberlake and Charlie Wilson perform onstage at the BET Awards at the Nokia Theatre on Sunday, June 30, 2013, in Los Angeles.

was arguably the night's top moment, though others were on fire.

Ciara echoed Janet Jackson when she danced and sang her R&B hit "Body Party," while Dawn Penn, Chaka Pliers, Beenie Man and Elephant Man electrified the audience when they gave a colorful performance of reggae classics.

Many artists played double or triple duty onstage at the Nokia Theater L.A. Live. Badu sang with Monae and Kendrick Lamar, who also performed with

2 Chainz. Miguel sang alone, and with Mariah Carey and J. Cole, while Minaj performed with Ciara and Chris Brown. Pharrell helped out Wilson and Robin Thicke, who excitedly performed his current No. 1 hit, "Blurred Lines."

Drake, who didn't attend the awards show, led with 12 nominations, though he won viewer's choice and best collaboration for his appearance on A\$AP Rocky's "(Expletive) Problems" with Lamar and 2 Chainz.

Drake had five nominations for video of the year, which had 10 nominees.

Lamar, who along with 2 Chainz was the second most nominated act, won best new artist, male hip-hop artist and collaboration.

"Most importantly to my little

home boys and my home girls back in the city, you looking at me on TV right now, I came up in that same county building, food stamps, welfare section eight ... this is living proof that you can do anything you put your mind to," said 26-year-old Lamar, who is from Compton.

Minaj and Brown picked up their fourth consecutive wins for best female hip-hop artist and the fandemonium award.

"Don't read the bull in the news, I'm a real dude," Brown told the crowd.

Brown opened the show with a medley of new songs, including one that featured vocals from late R&B singer Aaliyah and another with Minaj, who joined him onstage. BET couldn't bleep some of the rapper's expletives—much like the awards show last year. Expletives from Badu, Wayne Brady and the singers who performed with R. Kelly slipped, too.

Carey was angelic as she belted—or lip synched—her latest hit, "(hash)Beautiful," and an excited R. Kelly sang snippets of a dozen of his hits—including "Bump N Grind"

and "Ignition"—as the crowd cheered on.

Host Chris Tucker sang and danced too—in tribute to Michael Jackson.

Miguel won the night's first award, best male R&B pop artist, beating out Brown, Timberlake, Usher and Bruno Mars.

"I got to really give it up to all the other guys in this category," Miguel said.

Don Cheadle presented Miguel with the award, and dedicated the night to the ailing Nelson Mandela.

"We want to take a moment and send our prayers and thoughts to a man who literally changed the world," he said. "This evening we would like to offer prayers and support and hope to the extraordinary Nelson Mandela and his family."

Jamie Foxx, wearing a shirt that featured a picture of Trayvon Martin, won best actor, and danced onstage with Kevin Hart when accepting the honor.

Hart, who hosted the BET Awards in the past, was overly excited onstage, even stealing the shine from Tucker, who was a mediocre host.

Paris Jackson 'better' but misses tribute to dad

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Once was not enough.

Less than 20 months after the debut of the first Cirque du Soleil show paying tribute Michael Jackson comes the second: "Michael Jackson ONE"

Cirque president Daniel Lamarre said he'd planned two Jackson-inspired shows "from the first day we got the rights from the (Jackson) estate," with

the first production, "Michael Jackson THE IMMORTAL WORLD TOUR," delivering a stadium-sized concert-type presentation and "ONE," a more intimate affair.

The new show is something closer to what Cirque du Soleil usually serves up. It's a multimedia extravaganza that often flies high, but never loses sight of its inspiration.

Saturday's world premiere attracted celebrities including musician Justin Bieber, as well as actors Neil Patrick Harris, Allison Janney and Alfre Woodard.

Also in attendance were Michael Jackson's brothers Marlon, Tito and Jackie, the latter noting during arrivals that most of the Jackson family would be inside the theater for the premiere except for Michael's daughter, Paris. The teen was taken by ambulance from her family's home June 5 and hospitalized.

"She's going to be OK," Jackie Jackson said. "She's getting better."

The brothers said even less when asked about the progress of the lawsuit against concert promoter AEG Live. The family claims the company hired Conrad Murray, the doctor convicted of involuntary manslaughter for Michael Jackson's 2009 death.

"We can't elaborate on that, because it's still ongoing," replied Marlon Jackson.

Following a dramatic week of courtroom testimony surrounding Michael Jackson's final days, the brothers seemed re-

lieved to be revisiting Michael's life and work.

"ONE" "is all about the music," said Marlon Jackson. "This is part of giving back and sharing his legacy."

"ONE" also gives Cirque another crack at producing the ultimate Michael Jackson tribute show.

Some heavyweight media outlets gave "IMMORTAL" lukewarm reviews (The Hollywood Reporter, and the Los Angeles Times among them). And even Cirque president Lamarre said the production was being "tweaked" throughout its North American run.

"ONE" director Jamie King commented, "I think the questions with 'IMMORTAL' was, 'Was there enough Cirque? Was there enough Michael?' There's where the confusion (was)."

"ONE" is very different," explained Lamarre. "It's a total immersion. So, people are going to dive into the universe of Michael Jackson."

Despite mixed reviews and initial production problems, "IMMORTAL" was a box-office smash. According to Forbes, it was the highest-grossing tour in the United States in 2011 and the second-highest in 2012. By the time it traveled overseas, Lamarre said, "IMMORTAL" was greatly improved.

"I cannot wait to bring back 'IMMORTAL' (to North America) for people to realize how good a show it is now," he added.

'The Heat' hot at box office but 'Monsters' rule

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCarthy brought "The Heat" against Channing Tatum and Jamie Foxx at the box office.

The Fox action-comedy starring the funny ladies as mismatched detectives earned \$40 million in second place in its opening weekend, topping the \$25.7 million debut haul of Sony's "White House Down," according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Disney-Pixar animated prequel "Monsters University" remained box-office valedictorian in its second weekend, earning \$46.1 million in first place.

As for "The Heat," employing two female leads to buck the male-dominated buddy-cop formula paid off in ticket sales.

"I think the fact that we have a female-centric movie standing out in a forest of giant tent-pole movies is phenomenal," said Chris Aronson, Fox's president of domestic distribution. "Audiences really responded. We positioned this to be a female event movie, and we got the opening that we were hoping for this weekend."

"White House Down," which features Tatum as a wannabe Secret Service agent and Foxx as the President of the United States of America, was inaugurated below expectations in fourth place. The film's White House takeover plot is strikingly similar to FilmDistrict's "Olympus Has Fallen," which opened in March and starred Gerard Butler and Aaron Eckhart.

1. "Monsters University," \$46.1 million (\$44.2 million international).
2. "The Heat," \$40 million.
3. "World War Z," \$29.8 million (\$70.1 million international).
4. "White House Down," \$25.7 million (\$6.8 million international).
5. "Man of Steel," \$20.8 million (\$52.2 million international).
6. "This Is the End," \$8.7 million.
7. "Now You See Me," \$5.5 million (\$5 million international).
8. "Fast & Furious 6," \$2.4 million (\$6.1 million international).
9. "Star Trek: Into Darkness," \$2 million (\$2 million international).
10. "The Internship," \$1.4 million (\$3.6 million international).

"It turned out to be a very competitive weekend," said Rory Bruer, Sony's president of worldwide distribution. "We had hoped 'White House Down' did better, just from the standpoint that we love this film, but I feel very hopeful that with the July 4th holiday coming up, it will be the perfect film for audiences, and it'll really add up for us."



Actors Sandra Bullock, left, and Melissa McCarthy attend "The Heat" premiere at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Sunday, June 23, 2013 in New York.

Meanwhile, Paramount's "World War Z" took another bite out of the box office in its second weekend domestically with \$29.8 million. Overseas, the globe-trotting zombie thriller starring Brad Pitt cleared \$70.1 million in 51 territories.

"I think the variety of films is what brought people out to the movie theaters," said Paul Dergarabedian, an analyst for box-office tracker Hollywood.com. "There's a G-rated movie at the top of the chart and an R-rated movie in second place. That says a lot about the summer marketplace and how a unique

slate of films can propel the box office." "Man of Steel" is still flying high in its third week, coming in fifth place with \$20.8 million in North America and \$52.2 million in such international markets as Australia, Sweden and China. The Warner Bros. retelling of Superman's origin passed the \$500 million mark on Saturday.

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LONE RANGER [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. 7:00 PM

WHITE HOUSE DOWN [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. (105 PM 405 PM)

WORLD WAR Z 3D [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. (125 PM)

MAN OF STEEL 3D [CC] (PG-13)
Tue. (1230 PM)

Cirque du Soleil artist dies after fall in Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Paris-born performer in Cirque du Soleil's "Ka" died after a fall during a show in Las Vegas.

Sarah Guyard-Guillot was pronounced dead late Saturday night at a hospital after falling about 50 feet from the show's stage.

Witnesses told the *Las Vegas Sun* that the accident occurred near the end of the production Saturday night at the MGM Grand.

Visitor Dan Mosqueda of Colorado Springs, Colo., said the 31-year-old acrobatic per-

former was being hoisted up the side of the stage when it appeared that she slipped free of her safety wire and plummeted to an open pit below the stage.

"Initially, a lot of people in the audience thought it was part of the (show)," he told the Sun. "But you could hear screaming, then groaning, and we could hear a female artist crying from the stage."

The show momentarily continued, then stopped. Minutes after the accident, a recorded announcement informed audience members that refunds or

vouchers to future shows would be offered, and the crowd was dismissed.

Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberte issued a statement Sunday praising Guyard-Guillot and saying performances of "Ka" have been canceled until further notice.

Guyard-Guillot, a mother of two children, had been with the original cast of "Ka" since 2006, and had been an acrobatic performer for over 20 years.

"I am heartbroken. I wish to extend my sincerest sympathies to the family. We are all

completely devastated," Laliberte said. "We are reminded with great humility and respect how extraordinary our artists are each and every night. Our focus now is to support each other as a family."

Cirque officials are working with authorities investigating the accident and have offered their full cooperation, he added.

The Clark County Coroner's Office will rule on the cause of death.

The MGM Grand also issued a statement concerning the accident.

Lopez sings in human-rights-violating Turkmenistan

NEW YORK (AP)—Jennifer Lopez sang "Happy Birthday" to the leader of Turkmenistan during a show, but her representative said she wouldn't have performed there at all if she had known there were human rights issues in the country.

The singer and actress performed in the former Soviet bloc country on Saturday night.

A statement released Sunday by her publicist to The Associated Press said the event was hosted by the China National Petroleum Corp. and wasn't a political event.

However, the country's leader, Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, did attend. Berdimuhamedov has been criticized for oppressive rule by human rights

organizations. Human Rights Watch describes Turkmenistan as "among the most repressive in the world."

After a United Nations visit last month, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ivan Simonovic said the country had made progress in the area of human rights, but "a lot more work is needed to complete this process and to ensure practice is in line with international standards."

Lopez's publicist says the

event was vetted by Lopez's staff: "Had there been knowledge of human rights issues any kind, Jennifer would not have attended."

The birthday serenade was a last-minute request made by the corporation to Lopez before she took the stage, and she "graciously obliged," the statement said.

Lopez is the latest celebrity to face scrutiny for performing in countries or for leaders with human rights violations.



AP
In a March 23, 2013, file photo Jennifer Lopez performs at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge Resort and Spa in Phoenix.

Ford, Egan win literary medals

NEW YORK (AP)—Richard Ford and Timothy Egan, winners of literary medals presented by the American Library Association, both credit libraries for making their work possible.

Ford and Egan are this year's recipients of the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence for the best works of fiction and non-fiction. Ford was cited for the novel "Canada," narrated by the teen son of bank robbers. Egan won for "Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher," a biography of photographer Edward Curtis, who compiled an encyclopedic archive of North American Indians.

Egan, a prize-winning author and reporter for The New York Times, noted in a recent interview that libraries were a vital part of his research for the Curtis book. Curtis, who died in 1952, had compiled a 20-volume set of his Indian photographs. Few copies exist today, but Egan managed to look through the pictures at the University of Washington library in Seattle.

"It was really magical," said Egan, winner of the National Book Award in 2006 for "The

Worst Hard Time," a history of those lived through the Dust Bowl during the Great Depression. "You have to put on these white gloves and look very carefully through this glowing, magical achievement. Libraries, in many ways, are the keepers of our stories."

Ford, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, recalled that he grew up down the street from a Carnegie library in Jackson, Miss. His mother would leave him there at times, considering it a safe place for a child.

"I got an introduction there to what books were, why books were important," said Ford, who now regularly donates books to the library near his home in Maine.

Ford and Egan each will receive \$5,000, and finalists each receive \$1,500. In fiction, they were Junot Diaz for "This Is How You Lose Her" and Louise Erdrich for "The Round House." In nonfiction: David Quammen for "Spillover" and Jill Lepore for "The Mansion of Happiness." The Carnegie medals were established in 1912 and are funded through a grant by the Carnegie Corporation.

Late film critic Ebert honored for columns

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—Late movie critic Roger Ebert has been honored by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists.

Ebert, who worked at the Chicago Sun-Times for more than 40 years, took first place for on-line columns or blogs on large websites in the NSNC's annual column contest. The group held its annual conference Saturday in Hartford, Conn.

Ebert died earlier this year at

age 70, after a long battle with cancer. The day before his April 4 death, he wrote in a post on his blog that he was taking a break from his schedule of almost-daily movie reviewing because cancer had recurred.

He won national fame teaming with fellow film critic Gene Siskel of the Chicago Tribune in 1975 for a television show that had them each give a thumbs-up or thumbs-down rating to the latest releases.

Jessica Simpson gives birth to boy, named Ace



AP
In this Nov. 29, 2011 file photo, singer Jessica Simpson, right, poses with Eric Johnson at the 25th Annual Footwear News Achievement Awards at The Museum of Modern Art in New York.

NEW YORK (AP)—Jessica Simpson's daughter has a new playmate—a baby brother named Ace.

Simpson's representative confirmed that the entertainer gave birth to Ace Knute in Los Angeles on Sunday via planned C-section. The details were first reported by Us Weekly.

This is the second child for Simpson and her fiancé, Eric Johnson. Simpson gave birth to daughter Maxwell last year.

Simpson, who got her start as a singer and has a successful apparel and accessories line, most recently appeared on NBC's "Fashion Star."

Husband wanting good loving should be good lover himself

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I'll bet you've gotten a ton of mail about "Mike in Missouri" (March 15), who was worried about his wife's declining sex drive. While your point about hormone levels is a good one, it could be something simpler than that.

I am a wife who would love to have sex more often, but I'm TIRED! I work full-time and do most of the household chores. I also do most of the cooking.

When my husband heads up to the bedroom at 10 o'clock and gives me that "come hither look," I'm not in the mood for sex. I'm thinking about the two loads of laundry and the sink full of dishes that still need to be done. Or I'm trying to remember whether I signed that permission slip for our daughter and making a mental note about picking up my prescriptions on the way to a client meeting in the morning.

Speaking of prescriptions, is Mike's wife perhaps on birth control pills? Those can decrease a woman's sex drive. I took a particular pill for a year before realizing how much it killed my desire. My doctor changed the prescription. Although there's a big difference, I'm still too tired to do much about it most days.

However, my husband has figured out I have more energy in the mornings, so his timing is better on those "come hither looks." Now if I could only get him to help out more with the chores ...

G. IN DAYTON, OHIO

DEAR G.: Thank you for sharing. And you're right -- readers wasted no time flooding my office with comments on this topic:

DEAR ABBY: After conversations with women of all ages, I have concluded that more often than not, it is the husband who has caused the wife's sex drive to diminish, not hormones or other physical problems.

Ask Mike how he treats his wife on a daily basis; whether he has habits or hygiene that are off-putting; whether he indulges in pornography; whether he has taken care of his health and appearance. After 17 years, is he a good lover?

Many women are as dissatisfied with their sex lives as their complaining husbands are. Anyone who wants to have a satisfying sex partner needs to BE one.

OVER 50 AND STILL INTERESTED

DEAR ABBY: A woman's sex drive is a complex issue that in my experience has nothing to do with her hormone levels. A decline can occur at any age even though she has no obvious medical issues. The most common causes are stress, unresolved and deeply buried sexual issues, concern about body image, empty nest syndrome, distraction with family problems, worry over work or finances, and the side effects of medications such as antidepressants.

SAN DIEGO GYNECOLOGIST

DEAR ABBY: When sex was mind-blowing for me was when I felt the most loved by my husband. The way he treats me has changed over the years, and lately I'm so turned off that I can no longer physically respond to him. Often, a woman loses interest in sex because her partner makes her feel like he has lost interest in HER.

At the beginning of a relationship, both people do special things for each other to show their affection. These are the things women need. To continue feeling loved, each woman has different emotional needs that can stay the same or evolve as life's circumstances change.

The bottom line is, if men want their wives to want them physically, they need to learn what their wives want emotionally—and then do a lot of it. Pay attention to her, communicate, make her a priority. I'm amazed that so many men don't understand how enormous the payoff would be if they made the effort to make their wives feel they are still special.

OUTTA HERE SOON

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



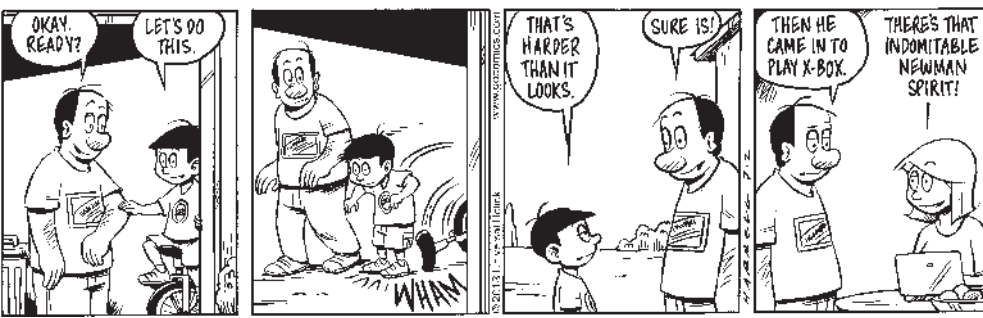
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



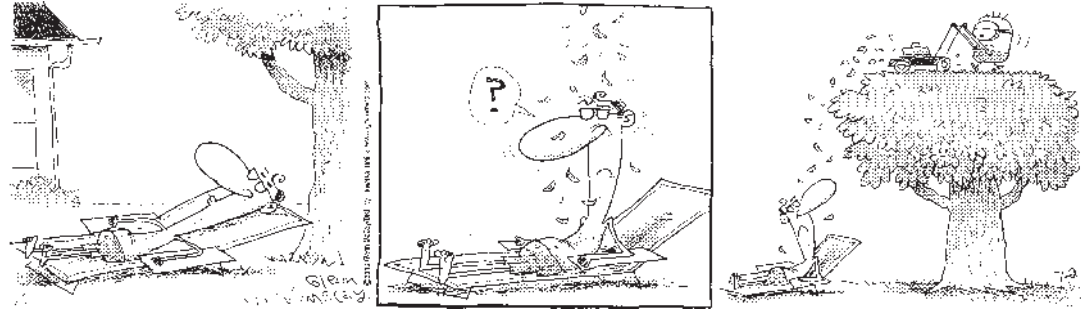
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Present

5 Watchful one

9 Massage

12 — podrida

13 Bean curd

14 Raw mineral

15 Non-dieter's break-fast?

17 Work with

18 Para-phernalia

19 Frat party outfits

21 Following

24 2007 movie, "In the Valley of —"

25 LummoX

26 Flip-flop

30 Marker

31 Strength

32 Weeding tool

33 Reduces in status

35 Corn recipe

36 Gap

37 Birch cousin

38 Sicily neighbor

40 Got up

42 Flightless bird

43 Lozenge of a sort

48 First X or O?

49 Satanic

50 Fish's lung

51 "Raiders of the Lost —"

52 Logical

53 Vortex

3 Winter ailment

4 Put out a base-runner

5 Sicilian spouter

6 Part of MYOB

7 Small salamander

8 Rancher's foe

9 See

26-Down, homes

10 — Minor

11 Honey bunch

16 That girl

20 Rowing prop

21 Alkali neutral-izer

22 Ice sheet

23 "That's a shame"

24 Prior nights

26 With 9-Down, treated harshly

27 Lamb's dam

28 Top-rated

29 Sly look

31 Majestic

34 Decay

35 Vow

37 Blond shade

38 Beyond (Pref.)

39 Eastern potentate

40 Destruction

41 Lecherous look

44 Eggs

45 Disen-cumber

46 Anti-quated

47 Thick-ness

Solution time: 21 mins.

ALGA FEZ RAMS
REINSURE EXIT
KINGLEAR VISA
EEL OMELET
SCALD HIER
URNS DINGBAT
BEI AEROS IOW
WINGMAN MOTE
ARUM LAZED
JAGUAR ION
ALES RINGTOSS
ZONE ENCEINLE
7FTA DNA SOYA

Yesterday's answer 7-2

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Alex Morgan, 24; Lindsay Lohan, 27; Ashley Tisdale, 28; Larry David, 66.

Happy Birthday: Speak up if you feel strongly about something. Fight for a cause and do your best to lend a helping hand. Offer younger and older family members and friends guidance and assistance. Let your imagination lead you in a direction that will allow you to improve your current financial situation. Ask for favors and you will reach your goals. Your numbers are 5, 8, 12, 24, 29, 32, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep the momentum flowing. Romance is looking good and social engagements or networking will prove beneficial professionally and personally. Discuss what you have to offer or want to pursue, and you will attract interest, suggestions and contributions. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Finish what you start. Keep your emotions in check and don't let uncertainty interfere. Focus on what you know and what you need to find out to initiate your plans. Don't let love complicate what you are trying to accomplish. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make personal improvements. Added responsibilities or favors you owe will be collected. Aim to work hard, contribute your skills and knowledge and to complete whatever you begin. A change in your love life will turn out to be a plus. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Size up any situation you face and look for a suitable way to make a contribution without being taken advantage of or adding to your own stress or burdens. Your sincerity coupled with ingenuity will

help you make a difference. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Emotions will surface regarding work relations and how work is delegated. Do your job as best you can. A calculated move will protect you from a financial crisis caused by an impulsive move. Do your best and bide your time. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Mingle, offer help and suggestions or take on a new project. Travel plans can be made, and attending a conference that will help you advance should be considered. Taking action and following your dreams will lead to a happy and successful future. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Do things for the right reason. Take into consideration that not everyone will be looking out for your best interest. Contracts, settlements and legal and financial matters will require close attention. A partnership will undergo positive changes. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Protect your health and your heart. Speak up and you will avoid being taken for granted. Use your emotional appeal to persuade others to look at your way of doing things. A unique change to your surroundings will help motivate you. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A love connection may result in a financial challenge. Don't overspend while trying to impress someone. You cannot buy love. Focus more on making the positive and prosperous changes at home. You want to encourage equality, not dependency. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Restructuring personal matters, renovations or a

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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residential move will help stabilize your position and guarantee less stress and more security. Your ability to handle family matters clearly and precisely will enhance your position personally and professionally. Take charge and do your own thing. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Make love, not war. Avoid anyone trying to encourage you to argue or complicate your life. Put greater emphasis on personal growth and looking and doing your best. The action you take now should be geared toward positive, long-lasting results. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Do whatever works best for you. Taking care of business and showing others what you are capable of will bring you more options and opportunities. Networking will allow you to see what the competition is doing. ****

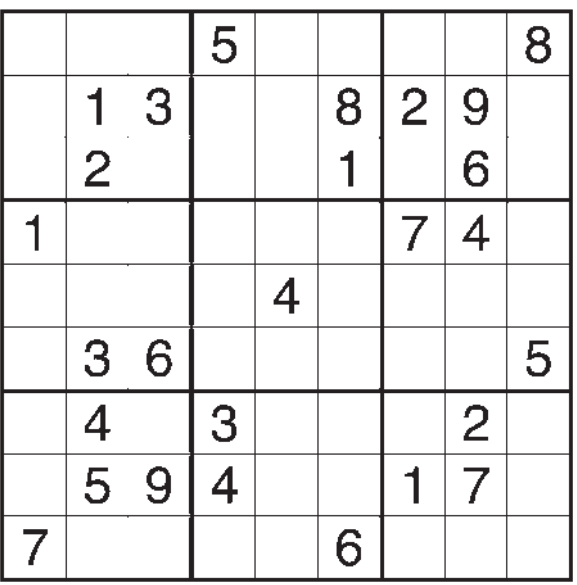
Birthday Baby: You are dependable, compassionate and determined. You are imaginative and insightful.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

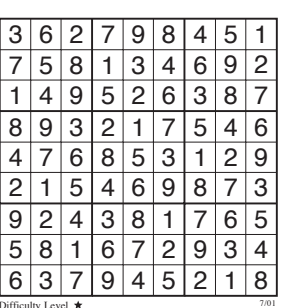
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORDS. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE MARKER HOTEL

Solution: 9 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Makeover

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 34 is "Celebrities Vol. 3." To purchase, call toll-free, 1 800 642 6480. Order online at wonderword.universalclick.com. Contains 43 puzzles.

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Fina Sisu Apt., Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE COMMONWEALTH OF
THE NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the Adoption of]	CIVIL ACTION NO. 13-0148-FC
M.T.H. and V.A.T., Minor Children.]	FIRST AMENDED NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Bernard Francis Keremius has filed a Petition for the adoption of Mridul Taman Hossein and Vincent Anthony Taman, minor children; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on August 19, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m.

DATED: June 24, 2013
/s/ Clerk of Court

HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL
P.O. BOX 500338 SAIPAN, MP 96950-0338
TEL: (670) 234-6495 to 98 • FAX (670) 237-2529

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: **(1) Clerk, Front Desk**
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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: **Farmer** (2 positions). Salary: \$350 to \$400 per month with housing, utilities, food allowance, ground transportation, and workers' compensation insurance provided. Five years experience in fruit, vegetable, and livestock farming required. Must be able to operate farm equipment & machinery.

All applicants must be of good health, good moral character, and must agree to a drug test. High school graduate. Must be able to read, speak and write basic English. Interested applicants must submit their bio-data, resume, police clearance, and other supporting documents to the Saipan Farm & Garden via email at ccsspn@yahoo.com or via fax at 670-233-7342 or send to P.O. Box 503771, Saipan, MP96950. Closing date: July 8, 2013.

Position: House Worker (1 position). Five years experience in working as a houseworker with duties to include: vacuuming, mopping floor, cleaning windows, and other areas of the household and office used for business operations; cooking, making coffee, and cleaning utensils for office use; dispose of trash and other office refuse on a daily basis; cleaning and maintaining in sanitary condition the offices of Cornerstone Consulting Service; and, performing other houseworker-related duties as assigned.

Salary: CNMI minimum wage. All applicants must be of good health, good moral character, and must agree to a drug test. High school graduate. Must be able to read, speak and write basic English. Interested applicants must submit their bio-data, resume, police clearance, and other supporting documents to Cornerstone Consulting Services via email at cornerstone_development@yahoo.com or via fax at 670-233-7342 or send to P.O. Box 503771, Saipan, MP96950. Closing date: July 8, 2013.

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Graduate of a 4-year degree course and with a minimum of 8 years of professional progressive management experience and at least 2 years of general management experience in freight forwarding, shipping, transportation, warehouse activities, safety performance, logistics operations and quality management. Knowledge of supply chain, courier & warehousing operations, stock control, financial and quality management is required. Must have a solid track record in accomplishing business objectives.

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WHATZIT Solution: Madonna

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

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Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Bill Haas pulls away to win at Congressional



BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—Bill

Haas made the long walk across a makeshift bridge and under the grandstands to the 18th green for the trophy presentation, high-fiving kids along the railing and raising his cap to thousands of fans who cheered as they saw him coming.

His victory Sunday in the AT&T National was even sweeter when he compared it with all the times he failed.

“As many times as I’ve choked and hit bad shots and I’ve been nervous and it hasn’t worked out—I was feeling all those things today—and to hit good, quality golf shots down the stretch is such a good feeling,” Haas said. “I wish I could explain it. It’s amazing.”

His golf spoke volumes.

Haas pulled away from a crowd of contenders with three straight birdies, two good pars and one good hop. It led to a 5-under 66, giving him a three-shot win at Congressional over Roberto Castro and putting him into distinguished company on two levels.

Haas has won at least one PGA Tour event in each of the last four years, joining Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson and Justin Rose. And he kept the pedigree of champions at the AT&T National on a day when a half-dozen players were trying to win their first PGA Tour event. In the seven-year history of the tournament, Rose was the lowest-ranked player to win. He was No. 35 when he won at Aronimink in 2010. Haas started the week at No. 29.

Haas is honest to fault, which explains why he is too hard on himself. He talked about how he “threw up on myself” at Riviera when he lost a three-shot lead in the final round, and he twice used the word “choke” in describing past failures.

“That’s terrible to say that ‘I choke’ and ‘I throw up on myself,’ but I’m just honest that I did that,” he said. “But go from there. How do you get



Bill Haas poses with a trophy after winning the AT&T National golf tournament at Congressional Country Club, Sunday, June 30, 2013, in Bethesda, Md.

better? Don’t do it again, you know? That’s my best statement. Just don’t do that again. Today, I didn’t do it. I think it makes it that much sweeter, too, when you can remember the times you stunk.”

He made only one bogey, making

good on his pledge Saturday to clean up his card after a third round that included a triple bogey on the 11th hole.

As many as six players had a share of the lead at some point until Haas rolled in a 10-foot birdie putt on No. 8. Worried about a splotch of mud on

his ball, he hit his approach to just inside 12 feet for birdie on the par-5 ninth, and then hit a 5-iron to 10 feet for another birdie on the 10th.

Haas led by at least two shots the entire back nine, though he never allowed himself to think about winning until he stood over a 3-foot par putt on the 18th hole and realized he had three putts to win.

“I just kept the ball in front of me,” Haas said. “Nothing too crazy.”

The 31-year-old won for the fifth time in his career, and this was the first one with Tiger Woods on the property—not to play, but to hand out the trophy. Woods sat out this week with an elbow injury and won’t play again until the British Open, though he was impressed with what he saw.

“He played beautifully today,” Woods said. “He handled his business through the tougher stretch of holes and pulled away.”

Castro, part of a four-way tie for the lead at the start of the final round, made Haas work for it.

“He didn’t make any mistakes, and the birdies on 9 and 10 were big,” Castro said after his 69.

The other leaders fell away. Andres Romero had a double bogey on the fourth hole and shot 75. James Driscoll didn’t make a birdie in his round of 74.

Jordan Spieth, the 19-year-old from Texas who needs a win to become a PGA Tour member and be eligible for the FedEx Cup playoffs, started his day by holing out from a fairway bunker for eagle and chipping in for birdie to tie for the lead. He dropped a shot at No. 11—the hardest hole at Congressional—about the time Haas was on his critical run of birdies. Spieth had a 69 and finished sixth, pushing his earnings for the year over \$1.1 million.

Castro bogeyed the opening hole, and that was his only mistake. He was one shot out of the lead at the turn, couldn’t match birdies with Haas at the par-3 10th, and then stuck with him the rest of the day.

“It helped that Roberto played so well,” Haas said.

Haas, who finished on 12-under 272, never allowed himself to think about winning, even after he seized control around the turn. Congressional wouldn’t let him. Even though he made 15 birdies on the weekend, he remembered the triple bogey on the 11th hole Saturday that temporarily derailed him.

This time, he found the fairway, hit onto the green, took two putts for par and exhaled.

Haas saved par from a bunker on the par-3 13th with a 6-foot putt that swirled 360 degrees around the cup before falling, and then picked up an unlikely birdie on the 14th when his 9-iron was drifting toward a mound covered with shaggy rough to the right of the green. It hopped off the mound to about 10 feet, and he went from a possible bogey to a birdie when he made the putt.

He made one more birdie with a wedge that checked up a foot from hole on the par-5 16th, and Haas was on his way.

The biggest struggle after that was hoisting the silver trophy of the U.S. Capitol over his head in the stifling heat of the closing ceremony on the 18th green.

Haas was still smarting over losing a three-shot lead in the final round at Riviera, making five bogeys in a seven-hole stretch in the middle of his round. He had the 36-hole lead at the Memorial until a 76-71 weekend.

He was solid on Sunday at Congressional, and the win moved him to No. 7 in the FedEx Cup standings with the playoffs about two months away. That’s important to Haas, who won the FedEx Cup in 2011 and failed to qualify for the Tour Championship last year.

D.H. Lee made nine birdies to match a tournament-best 64 and tied for third with Jason Kokrak, who briefly shared the lead on the front nine and had a 69. Stewart Cink closed with a 67 and finished alone in fifth, his best finish on the PGA Tour in stroke play since he won the British Open four years ago at Turnberry.



AJACCIO, Corsica (AP)—

Behind Jan Bakelants, the Belgian who

rode with guts and guile to win Stage Two at the Tour de France, there were other smaller but no less impressive victories Sunday that don’t get so widely noticed—by the race’s riding wounded.

In other circumstances, logic would prescribe rest, recovery and TLC for the likes of Geraint Thomas, who was among the more badly beaten up of the dozen or so riders who slammed into the tarmac in a vicious high-speed pileup a day earlier in the frenetic end of Stage One.

But the moving circus that is the Tour waits for no man, even those with deep cuts, evil bruises or, like Thomas, teeth-grinding pain in his left hip that made it difficult for him to walk, let alone hold his place in the world’s toughest bike race.

In other sports, players who pick up knocks generally get at

At Tour, walking wounded win by soldiering on

least a few days to heal before the next game. But the Tour’s injured are afforded no such luxury. For them, the choice is either to soldier on with their aches and pains, hoping for a better tomorrow, or be among the first to quit. Which, for many of them, isn’t much of a choice at all.

So a whopping 17 minutes and 35 seconds after Bakelants gave the chasing pack the slip and got the stage win that, for now at least, also secured him the race leader’s yellow jersey, Thomas hauled himself across the finishing line.

“It feels a bit like a win in itself,” said the 27-year-old Welshman who rides for Sky, the team of Chris Froome, this year’s favorite.

At 97 miles, the stage from the east to the west coast of Corsica, from Bastia to Ajaccio, both of them ports, was one of the shortest of this 100th Tour.

But for Thomas, it felt “like an eternity.”

Bakelants got to celebrate on the podium and share his joy.

“It’s fantastic,” the RadioShack team rider said.

Thomas just got to fight—make that suffer—for another day. From the field of 198 riders, just two finished behind Thomas. The other 195 were ahead.

He said Saturday’s pileup is a bit of a blur.

“I remember just flipping straight over and, you know, just landing straight on my back,” he said.

Froome’s most dangerous rival for overall victory, two-time former champion Alberto Contador, was another of those caught in that crash. The Spaniard said he, too, was sore on Sunday, although he rode well—staying in the main pack that finished one second behind Bakelants.

“It was difficult to start off. There is pain in your whole body,” Contador said. “You feel bad here, here and here,” he said, pointing to his shoulder and elbow and hip.

Froome and other candidates for overall victory also were in Contador’s group. So going into Monday’s stage, the third and last on Corsica before the Tour crosses back onto the French mainland, the main contenders remain on an equal footing.

Froome, however, looks particularly fresh and strong. On the road into Ajaccio, the Briton made an impression and maybe scored a few psychological points by sprinting away from the pack for a while. It was a tactical move that perhaps would have impressed Ajaccio’s most famous son, Napoleon Bonaparte, the wily military and political leader of France born there in 1769.

Froome said the burst of

speed was merely to keep him safe and out of any more crashes. But with a smile, he added: “It’s always good to keep people on their toes.”

There were no smiles from his teammate, Thomas. He climbed gingerly off his bike. Later, sitting in a Team Sky car, he took an age to pull on fresh socks, wincing from the effort.

“The start was just unbelievable, just so much pain round here in my hip,” he said. “Toward the end, you know, it definitely felt a lot better than at the start. But it was still really sore. It hurts.”

An X-ray Saturday after the crash didn’t show any break. To be sure, Thomas was taken for a scan after Sunday’s stage.

The race doctor, Florence Pommerie, said she gave Thomas some painkillers as he rode Sunday. Bakelants completed the stage in 3 hours, 43 minutes, 11 seconds. The course

featured four climbs, through spiky mountains with patches of snow and past villages clinging to hillsides.

“The wake-up the morning after a crash is tough. You have to get the carcass moving again,” Pommerie said. “No one wants to fall and quit in the first few days.”

Thomas’ boss, Sky manager Dave Brailsford, said their hope is that Thomas will get better on the road, over the next three weeks to Paris. With only eight riders to support Froome, Brailsford doesn’t want to lose one of them so early in the race.

“Basically you just hope that he can suffer enough in order to keep on going, which will give him time for the injury to heal. But it’s a very fine line. You either aggravate it and make it worse or ... depending on the injury, it might be possible to make it better.”

“These guys,” Brailsford added, “won’t quit unless there is something really, really badly wrong.”

Puig's 1st 4-hit game leads Dodgers over Phils, 6-1



LOS ANGELES (AP) — Yasiel

Puig capped his sensational first month in the major leagues with his first four-hit game and Stephen Fife scattered four hits over seven scoreless innings as the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Philadelphia Phillies 6-1 in the National League on Sunday.

Puig finished June with 44 hits, surpassing the 42 by Pittsburgh's Bob Elliott in September 1939 for the second-most in a player's first full calendar month in Major League Baseball. Joe DiMaggio had 48 in May 1936.

Pirates 2, Brewers 1, 14 innings

In Pittsburgh, pinch-hitter Russell Martin singled home the winning run in the 14th inning, lifting Pittsburgh to its ninth straight victory.

The Pirates extended their longest winning streak since 2004, when they took 10 in a row. Pittsburgh reached the midpoint of its season with the best record in MLB at 51-30.

Giants 5, Rockies 2

In Denver, Madison Bumgarner scattered four hits over seven innings and Hunter Pence hit a two-run homer to help San Francisco end its longest losing streak in three years.

The Giants had lost six straight, their longest losing streak since dropping seven in a row from June 26-July 1, 2010.

Braves 6, Diamondbacks 2

In Atlanta, Freddie Freeman, Dan



Los Angeles Dodgers' Yasiel Puig, left, is congratulated by manager Don Mattingly after he scored on a single by Hanley Ramirez during the fourth inning of their baseball game against the Philadelphia Phillies, Sunday, June 30, 2013, in Los Angeles.

Uggla and Brian McCann homered, powering Atlanta past Arizona for a three-game sweep in the matchup of division leaders.

Paul Maholm (9-6) gave up two runs and eight hits in 6 2-3 innings for the NL East division-leading Braves, who improved to an MLB-best 28-11 at home.

Nationals 13, Mets 2

In New York, Gio Gonzalez pitched seven shutout innings, Ian Desmond homered off a backup catcher and Washington roughed up rookie Zack Wheeler and the Mets.

Adam LaRoche homered and Desmond and Denard Span had RBI doubles in a four-run second to spoil Wheeler's home debut, which became such a lopsided contest that catcher

Anthony Recker pitched the ninth inning.

Marlins 6, Padres 2

In Miami, Jeff Mathis hit a grand slam with one out in the ninth inning, lifting Miami past San Diego.

The Padres deployed a five-infielder, two-outfielder defense for Mathis, and he hit a 1-0 pitch past everyone and into the Padres bullpen.

Orioles 4, Yankees 2

In Baltimore, Chris Davis set a franchise record by hitting his 31st home run before the All-Star break as the Baltimore Orioles beat the skidding New York Yankees for a three-game sweep.

Manny Machado and Nate McLouth also homered for the Orioles, who increased their MLB-leading total to 115. Da-

vis' second-inning drive against Hiroki Kuroda (7-6) broke Brady Anderson's franchise record for home runs before the All-Star Game. Anderson had 30 in 1996 en route to finishing with a team-record 50.

Indians 4, White Sox 0

In Chicago, Justin Masterson pitched his MLB-leading third shutout of the season as Cleveland completed its first four-game sweep in Chicago since 1948.

Masterson (10-6) gave up six hits, struck out eight and walked one. He blanked the White Sox for the second time this year.

Rays 3, Tigers 1

St. Petersburg, Florida, Jeremy Hellickson earned his fifth June win as the Tampa Bay Rays beat Detroit in a game that included

an early warning by the umpires.

Hellickson (7-3) allowed one run over six-plus innings. He tied the team record for victories in one month held by Matt Moore, David Price and Scott Kazmir.

Royals 9, Twins 8

In Minneapolis, David Lough hit three doubles, then launched a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning that led the Kansas City Royals over Minnesota.

Lough hit his second homer of the season, sending a solo drive off Jared Burton (1-5) into the right-field seats for an 8-7 lead.

Red Sox 5, Blue Jays 4

In Boston, Shane Victorino's hard grounder eluded first baseman Josh Thole for an error as pinch-runner Jonathan Diaz raced home with the winning run in the ninth inning to lead the Boston Red Sox over Toronto.

Jose Bautista tied it in the ninth against Koji Uehara (1-0) with a solo homer, his 19th of the season and third in two games.

Angels 3, Astros 1

In Houston, Josh Hamilton doubled home the go-ahead run in the eighth inning and scored on shortstop Jake Elmore's overthrow, helping the Los Angeles Angels beat Houston and extend their winning streak to six.

C.J. Wilson (8-5) won his fourth straight start and Mark Trumbo hit his 18th homer for the Angels, who swept three-game series at Detroit and Houston for their first undefeated road trip of at least six games since 2002.

Rangers 3, Reds 2

In Arlington, Texas, Yu Darvish struck out eight in 6 2-3 scoreless innings for his first victory in eight starts and the Texas Rangers scored twice on a squeeze bunt to beat Cincinnati.

Darvish (8-3) won for the first time since May 16, ending his longest professional winless drought—in his two years with the Rangers or seven in Japan before that. The right-hander was 0-2 with a 2.93 ERA in those seven games, when Texas scored only 12 runs while he was on the mound.

Athletics 7, Cardinals 5

In Oakland, California, Jed Lowrie and Josh Donaldson homered and Tommy Milone overcame a rocky start to win for the first time in nearly four weeks as the Oakland Athletics held off St. Louis.

Donaldson reached base four times for the A's, who padded their American League-best home record by taking two of three in this interleague series. Oakland has won 16 of its last 19 games at the Coliseum.

Cubs 7, Mariners 6

In Seattle, Alfonso Soriano and Darwin Barney each doubled twice and the Chicago Cubs built a six-run lead before topping Seattle.

Anthony Rizzo drove in two runs and the Cubs tied a season high by hitting six doubles.

Chicago led 7-1 after four innings. The Cubs' bullpen, which has blown 16 save chances this season, gave up three runs in the eighth.

New names alongside Djokovic, Murray at Wimbledon



LONDON (AP)—Get ready for some unfamiliar names at Wimbledon.

With Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal long gone, and Maria Sharapova out, too, after a havoc-filled Week 1 at the All England Club, Week 2 begins Monday with a schedule that includes participants such as Kenny de Schepper and Adrian Mannarino, Ivan Dodig and Jerzy Janowicz, Karin Knapp and Monica Puig.

None of that group has played in a fourth-round match at any Grand Slam tournament.

Members of the usual cast of characters are still around, of course, such as Serena Williams, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray. None of that trio has dropped so much as a single set yet; all are expected to be around by next weekend.

Still, Djokovic likes the idea of some players getting a chance to introduce themselves to a wider audience.

"It's interesting ... to see new faces—for the crowd, for (the) tennis world, in general," said

Djokovic, who might not feel quite the same way if he were among the 11 men and women seeded in the top 10 who no longer are playing.

Truth is, there hasn't been much variety of late at Grand Slam tournaments, especially at the very end: Federer, Nadal and Djokovic have won 31 of the past 33 titles.

"It's good (to have) change, in a way, because it's always expected, obviously, from top players to reach the final stages of major events. When it doesn't happen, it's a big surprise," said the top-seeded Djokovic, whose six Grand Slam titles include Wimbledon in 2011. "It's a bit (of a) strange feeling not to have Federer or Nadal at the second week of a major. In the last 10 years, it was always one of them."

Over a shorter stretch, it's also always been Djokovic, who meets 35-year-old Tommy Haas on Monday. Djokovic has played in 16 consecutive Grand Slam quarterfinals—the longest active streak, now that Federer's 36-major run is done. At the past 10 Slams, Djokovic has reached the semifinals every

time, picking up five trophies and three runner-up finishes.

Murray, meanwhile, has been a finalist at the last three major tournaments he entered and won the U.S. Open in September, only increasing the expectation among the locals that he can deliver Britain's first male champion at Wimbledon in 77 years.

Nothing is guaranteed right now, though.

"Second week of a Grand Slam is a new start, especially here, where you have (time) off," said 15th-seeded Marion Bartoli, the 2007 Wimbledon runner-up who faces the 104th-ranked Knapp, an Italian making her first appearance in a major's fourth round. "It's really a new tournament starting."

So on the traditional middle Sunday's day of rest, there they were on the practice courts—six-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic, but also Janowicz, who'd won a grand total of six matches at major tournaments until this one; 2011 French Open champion and two-time major runner-up Li Na, but also 19-year-old Laura Robson, the first British woman to get this

far at the All England Club since 1998. Juan Martin del Potro, the 2009 U.S. Open champion, wore thick wraps of white tape around his left knee, which he hyperextended in a tumble Saturday, and a strip of black tape down the back of that leg.

When play resumes Monday with all 16 men's and women's fourth-round matches—Wimbledon is the only Grand Slam tournament that sets things up that way—fans get a chance to discover some folks they might not recognize immediately.

Five of the remaining 16 men are making their fourth-round Wimbledon debuts; only one in that group has ever been that far elsewhere. Six never have reached a Grand Slam quarterfinal: de Schepper, Dodig, Janowicz, Lukasz Kubot, Mannarino and Andreas Seppi. Perhaps not coincidentally, each of those relatively unknown half-dozen players benefited from at least one of the record-tying 13 walk-overs or mid-match retirements from injury or illness so far.

Four of the 16 women left are hoping to reach a major quarterfinal for the first time: Robson,

Knapp, 19-year-old Monica Puig of Puerto Rico, and 20th-seeded Kirsten Flipkens of Belgium.

The No. 1-ranked Williams, naturally, is an overwhelming favorite to win the title. She is a five-time Wimbledon champion, including last year. She owns 16 Grand Slam titles all told, while the other 15 women in the tournament own two among them: Li's at Roland Garros, and Petra Kvitová's at Wimbledon in 2011.

Narrow the focus, and facing Williams becomes even more daunting. She is 46-2 this season and has won her past 34 matches, the longest winning streak for a woman since older sister Venus' 35-match run in 2000.

Consider this, too: Williams has won six titles in 2013, the same total as the other 15 women combined.

It's entirely possible that the toughest match she'll face the rest of the way will come Monday against 23rd-seeded Sabine Lisicki of Germany. Lisicki is a mediocre 16-15 at other Grand Slam tournaments, but 16-4 at Wimbledon, where her powerful serve is nearly as much of a threat as Williams' is on grass.

Of the women in action Monday, Lisicki leads the way by having won 93 percent of her service games in the tournament (Williams is next at 91). Lisicki's 202 aces this season rank second on tour only to Williams' 292.

Lisicki reached at least the quarterfinals the previous three times she appeared at the All England Club, including a semifinal run in 2011 that included victories over Li and Bartoli. A year ago, she beat 2004 champion and No. 1-ranked Sharapova in the fourth round.

When it was pointed out that everyone is pretty much ready to hand Williams the trophy, Lisicki smiled and recalled: "I was in that situation last year, when everybody was saying that Sharapova was the favorite. I'm probably going into that match being the underdog, but I like that."

"Probably" the underdog against Williams?

"Well, you have to play your best to beat her, that's for sure," Lisicki said. "But, you know, everybody's (a) human being."

Especially, it seems, at this particular edition of Wimbledon, marked by so many injuries and so many surprises.

Close wins in futsal league opener

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



The 2013 Youth Futsal League kicked off last Saturday with all three games at the TSL Sports Complex going down to the wire.

In the opening match, Shirley's FC edged Alu FC in the girls U18 division, 2-1. Dianne Pablo made the winning goal in the second half, while Gabrielle Race scored the other goal for Shirley's. Joining Race and Pab-

lo on the squad are Mia Carreon, Ciara Apostol, De Jana Muna, Michaela Gariguez, Elaine Enriquez, and Cha Aragon.

Guine Borja leads Alu FC and she also nailed the lone goal of the team, finding the back of the net in the first half to force a standoff after the first 20 minutes of play. Completing the Alu FC roster are Maile Aldrich, Angel and Lyka Sally, Pin Shankweiler, Chloe Salvosa, and Gillian Villagomez.

NMI B 6, NMI A 5

In the first boys U18 match, NMI B slipped past NMI A.

Players from both camps are members of the CNMI youth training pool that are preparing for off-island competitions this year and in 2014.

Jake Lee anchored NMIB's win, as he made a hat-trick. Lee notched two goals in the first half and added one in the second to foil NMI A's comeback bid. John Taisacan also earned a goal in the second half, while Louie Calayag and Yoshi Mafnas made it to the board in the opening 20 minutes of the match.

Joining Lee, Taisacan, Calayag, and Mafnas on NMI B are Christian Valenzuela, Ryan

and Reniel Relucio, Ivan Seo, Chad Shankweiler, James Ermitanio, Billy Hinson, David Yang, Keanu Diaz, JC Piring, Joshua Galarion, and Greg Sablan.

Duplicating Lee's hat-trick was Jireh Yobech, who also bagged the twin goals in the first half. However, Yobech had only Dakota Hall helping him out on offense in the opening frame, leaving NMI A with a deficit. Yobech got one more goal in the second half, while Carlson Cruzat recorded the other one. Ten other players are on the NMI A roster—Enrico del Rosario, Evan Belcher, Won



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
NMI B's John Taisacan, left, sneaks in to kick the ball out and collides with NMI A's Dakota Hall during their game in the boys U18 division of the 2013 Youth Futsal League last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Jun Jim, Joel Fruit, John Masga, Oliver Lumbad, Christopher Aninzo, Kennedy Izuka, James David, and Aaron Lee.

Sufa softball fundraiser set this month



Team Sufa will be holding a fundraising softball tournament on July 6 and 7 at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Only the first 10 teams to register and pay the entrance fee of \$100 will be allowed to

compete in the fundraiser. An extra \$50 will be charged for unlimited home runs and fees should be settled before the team's first game.

Next month's tournament is co-ed, mandating participating teams to have two players on their rosters and one at the field

at all times. Both female players must also be at the batting lineup. Each squad can have a maximum of 15 players.

Teams will play in a double-elimination tournament and squads will be drawn randomly on July 5 at 6pm during the technical meeting at the pavilion in-

side the Oleai Sports Complex.

Proceeds from next month's fundraiser will be used for Team Sufa's participation in the CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament in the mainland in September.

Last year, Team Sufa finished in fifth place out of 19 teams that competed in the tournament held in Boise, Idaho. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Thundercats 5, Asian Kanoa FC 4

Tim Tawanpiy was the third player to earn a hat-trick in the opening of the league to power the Thundercats to a close win over Asian Kanoa FC.

Tawanpiy helped the Thundercats pulled off a come-from-behind win, as his team was down at the break, 1-2, when he dropped three goals in the second half. Bri-

an Lee scored the two other goals for the Thundercats, nailing one each in the first and second half.

The Thundercats listed only five players on their roster with Bada Lee, Makani Gramlich, and Sunjoon Tenorio completing the lineup.

Michael Fidelino tallied all goals for the Thundercats, scoring two apiece in the first and last frame. Completing Asian Kanoa FC's roster are Marc Mora, Rod-wealth Espana, Jun Sik Kim, Raphael Zapanta, Dale Ballesteros, Alan Hinson, Jonas Dapiawen, and Angelo Guevarra.

BRAZIL

From Page 28

ended Spain's 29-game, three-year winning streak in competitive matches. Spain lost a competitive game by three goals for the first time since a 3-0 defeat at Wales in a World Cup qualifier in April 1985.

"We are happy with what we have done over the last few years," Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque said. "But one loss—you have to look at it, but not overreact to it. We are not content with the loss. But when a team is superior, you have to accept it. It was a deserved defeat."

Brazil won its third straight Confederations Cup, and is unbeaten in 57 consecutive home competitive matches since 1975. Yet, no reigning Confed Cup winner has gone on to capture the following year's World Cup.

Spain, which had not lost a competitive game since its 2010

World Cup opener against Switzerland, had a miserable night. Sergio Ramos sent a penalty kick wide in the 55th and defender Gerard Pique was ejected by Dutch referee Bjorn Kuipers with a straight red card for fouling Neymar in the 68th.

"The first minutes and the last minutes of the halves are critical," Spanish defender Cesar Azpilicueta said. "And they scored their three goals at the beginning and ends of the halves, which is the worst time. Those are the most demoralizing moments."

Eliminated in the quarterfinals of the last two World Cups, the Selecao entered the tournament having not played a competitive match since the 2011 Copa America. Brazil had slipped to 22nd in the FIFA rankings, between Ghana and Mali.

Spain, ranked first for the past 20 months, is the most accomplished national team of recent decades, winning its first World Cup in 2010 between titles in the 2008 and 2012 European

Championships.

But in the stadium where 170,000-plus watched Brazil lose to Uruguay in the last game of the 1950 World Cup, Brazil dominated La Furia Roja.

"The champion is back," the crowd chanted.

It also didn't take long before the fans - in a sea of yellow jerseys—started teasing the Spaniards, chanting "Wanna play, wanna play!?" Brazil will teach you."

Spain had been unbeaten in 26 matches overall, including friendlies, since a 1-0 loss to England in London in 2011 and had outscored opponents 69-11 in competitive matches since the loss to Switzerland in South Africa.

But Spain had not played Brazil since a 1999 exhibition, and they hadn't met in a competitive match since the Selecao's 1-0 win in the first round of the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

"We knew we were going to encounter a physical game with lots of fouling," Spanish mid-

fielder Andres Iniesta said. "We lost to a very strong team, and the small details let us down."

Fred opened the scoring after a cross into the area by Hulk in the second minute. The ball bounced off Neymar near the far post and Fred, who had fallen while trying to reach for the cross, shot with his right foot while still on the ground.

Brazil added to the lead after Neymar exchanged passes with Oscar and then sent a powerful left-footed shot over goalkeeper Iker Casillas.

Fred got the final goal from just inside the area, sending a low shot to the far corner. Hulk started the move with a pass to Neymar, but the striker let it go as Fred came running behind him.

Spain was awarded the penalty kick after Marcelo fouled Jesus Navas inside the area. Ramos, who skied a penalty kick for Real Madrid against Bayern Munich in the 2012 Champions League semifinals, sent this one wide.

Spain's best chance before the penalty came with Pedro

Rodriguez in the 41st, when he entered the area clear from defenders on a breakaway. His low shot beat goalkeeper Julio Cesar, but David Luiz came rushing in and slid in front of the goal line just in time to deflect the ball over the crossbar.

There were protests outside the stadium during the match, with police using rubber bullets and tear gas to keep demonstrators from getting too close. A wave of anti-government protests has swept across Brazil

in recent weeks, and many affected the Confederations Cup host cities as demonstrators complained of the costs of hosting the World Cup.

On the field, it was a heated match from the start, with players from both teams pushing and shoving each other a few times. Even the substitutes got into a shouting match.

"We played a very good match," Scolari said. "It allows us to have a better idea about the path ahead of us."

CNMI

From Page 28

Emirates, South Africa, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.

Regardless of which team the Commonwealth spikers meet in pool play, Quinn encourages them to enjoy every match and represent their island well.

"I want them to enjoy the experience. Have fun. Forget about the last point. They can't do anything about it, so move on. Communication is key. There are only two of them on the court, so they need

to talk constantly and loudly. They need to encourage each other and pick each other up," Quinn said.

Quinn also hopes that McCullough-Stearns and Nekaifes' participation in the University Games will open more opportunities for CNMI youth players.

"I am super excited to see the next generation taking the torch. These players will hopefully set the stage for a new group of up and comers that will allow us to develop and compete in more international tournaments," Quinn said.

TAMMY

From Page 28

plum from the club during the awards ceremony held last June 22 at Paupau Beach for their record-breaking swims and impressive performance in local and off-island competitions last season.

In the 9 to 10 age group, Tammy owned 12 of the 15 records. Her marks include the 50m freestyle (31.28 seconds), 100m freestyle (1:08.14), 200m freestyle (2:24.96), 400m freestyle (5:13.53), 800m freestyle (10:41.53), 50m backstroke (36.90 seconds), 100m backstroke (1:19.10), 200m backstroke (2:49.27), 50m butterfly (33.04 seconds), 100m butterfly (1:16.77), 200m butterfly (2:52.64), and 200m individual medley (2:46.38).

Then less than two months ago, Tammy moved up to a higher age group and quickly established three marks with the recent ones made during the 2013 Guam Swimming Championships in May. The 11-year-old swimmer clocked in at 33.50 seconds in the 50m butterfly to eclipse the 34.39 seconds teammate Angel Marie Tan set on Oct. 15, 2011. In the 200m butterfly, Tammy submitted 2:57.42 to break the 3:01.62 Tan set on Jan. 21, 2012. Tammy's other record in her new group is from the 100m butterfly where she logged 1:16.27 to crush the 17-year mark of Saipan Swim Club's Xenavee Pangelinan, who tallied 1:18.17 on Jan. 27, 1996.

Kimura also established records in two different age groups last season. In the 15 to 16 division,

six marks are credited to his name. The list includes the 800m freestyle (9:12.98), 100m (1:05.33) and 200m (2:19.12) backstroke, 100m breaststroke (1:12.03), and 50m (27.57 seconds) and 100m (1:01.05) butterfly.

His 200m backstroke time is also a CNMI national record, surpassing the nearly 10-year mark of Seung-Gin Lee, who set 2:19.89 on July 25, 2003. Kimura made the new mark during the 6th Australian Youth Olympic Festival at the Aquatics Centre of the Sydney Olympic Park in Australia on Jan. 19, 2013.

Tsunami Saipan senior swimmer was just 16 years old when he represented the CNMI in the Youth Olympic Festival and just turned 17 in May, forcing him to move up the the highest age group competition (17 to 18) during the Guam Swim-

ming Championships. In Guam, he shattered two records—50m butterfly (27.70 seconds) and 800m freestyle (9:58.65). His time in the 50m butterfly slipped past the 27.87 seconds Kai Staal posted on April 16, 2011 while his 800m freestyle mark was about 30 seconds better than the 9:29.53 Shigeki Tenorio listed on Sept. 29, 2012.

Besides the tournaments in Guam and Australia, Kimura also represented the CNMI in the 11th FINA World Swimming Championships, joining Rezne Wong and Victoria Chentsova. Kimura went on to set personal best times in the short course (25-meter pool) meet.

Meanwhile, other awardees in the Tsunami Saipan season-ending recognition day will be reported on *Saipan Tribune's* Wednesday edition.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES									
MLB STANDINGS					NATIONAL LEAGUE				
AMERICAN LEAGUE					East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Boston	50	34	.595	—	Atlanta	48	34	.585	—
Baltimore	47	36	.566	2 1/2	Washington	41	40	.506	6 1/2
Tampa Bay	43	39	.524	6	Philadelphia	39	44	.470	9 1/2
New York	42	39	.519	6 1/2	New York	33	45	.423	13
Toronto	40	41	.494	8 1/2	Miami	29	51	.363	18
Central Division					Central Division				
Detroit	43	37	.538	—	Pittsburgh	51	30	.630	—
Cleveland	44	38	.537	—	St. Louis	49	32	.605	2
Kansas City	38	41	.481	4 1/2	Cincinnati	46	36	.561	5 1/2
Minnesota	36	42	.462	6	Chicago	35	45	.438	15 1/2
Chicago	32	47	.405	10 1/2	Milwaukee	32	48	.400	18 1/2
West Division					West Division				
Texas	48	34	.585	—	Arizona	42	39	.519	—
Oakland	48	35	.578	1/2	Colorado	41	42	.494	2
Los Angeles	39	43	.476	9	San Diego	40	42	.488	2 1/2
Seattle	35	47	.427	13	San Francisco	39	42	.481	3
Houston	30	52	.366	18	Los Angeles	38	43	.469	4

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

2013 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Macoï Aguda receives a low return during his and Marlene Peraja's mixed doubles A game against Oh Im Bog and Hannah Choi in the 2013 IT&E Mixed Doubles and Singles Badminton Tournament last month at the TSL Sports Complex.



Marlene Peraja steps forward for a return.



Jaypee Nopia goes sideways for a return.



Brandon Talania struggles to return the ball to Alma Ortega and Oh Im Bog.



Oh Im Bog rushes in for a backhand return.



Jeff Riman jumps for a return from the back line.



Daniel Shen makes a backhand return.



Cheng Saturno stretches to hit the shuttlecock.



Hannah Choi in action from the backcourt.



Jexler Caranto steps in for a quick return.

Bill Haas pulls away to win at Congressional

PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

28 TUESDAY, JULY 2, 2013

Puig's 1st 4-hit game leads Dodgers over Phils, 6-1

PAGE 25

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI spikers capable of pulling off upsets

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Clay McCullough-Stearns and John Nekaifes are capable of pulling off upsets when the beach volleyball competition in the 27th Summer Universiade begins this weekend in Russia.

"They will be playing against some big teams, but they can surprise them," said coach Russ Quinn, who left Saipan for Kazan, Russia with McCullough-Stearns and John Nekaifes early this morning.

McCullough-Stearns and Nekaifes will be facing players in the collegiate ranks and a few who have been participating in AVP Pro Tour and Quinn is hoping that 10 months of intense training will be enough to help the CNMI spikers stand the pressure in the University Games.

"Since we started specifically training for the University games over 10 months ago, both John and Clay's games have significantly improved. Their individual skill level have improved, with all fundamental areas seeing increased development. Their court presence has improved, as they are anticipating shots before they happen, their communication is good, and they both cover the court with good speed," Quinn said in an email to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday morning.

"Both Clay and John have put in many hours of work to prepare themselves. They've received some of the best coaching available from FIVB,

Japan national team coaches, and local coaches," the coach added.

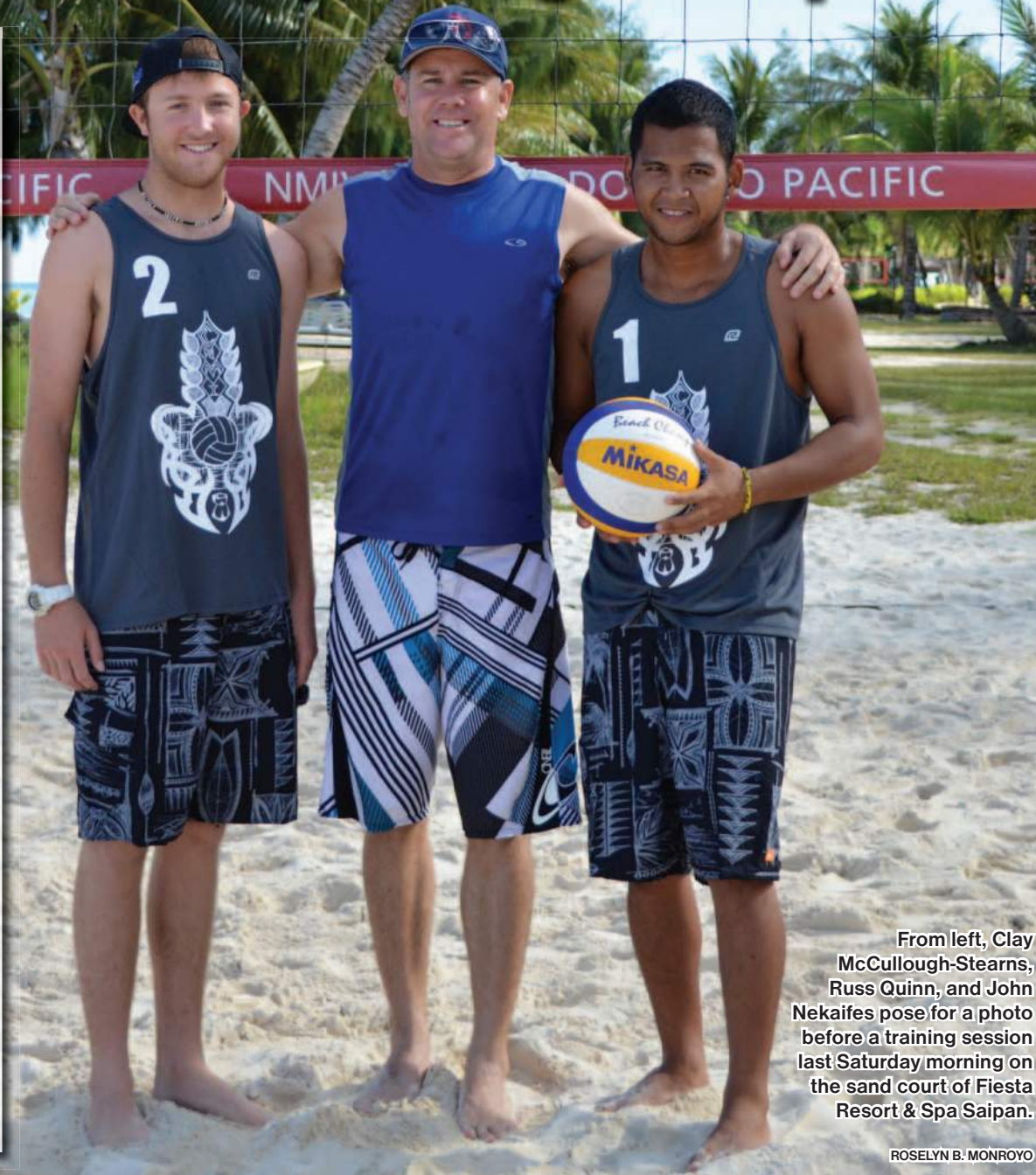
While training McCullough-Stearns and Nekaifes, Quinn saw players with different styles of plays, but still they complement each other's game.

"Clay is a quick study. He picks things up quickly and applies them in games situations. He has a strong presence at the net, with a good block. He also has a good jump serve," Quinn said.

"John is the speedy defender. He has great anticipation and can touch almost any ball hit on the court. He has a calming demeanor and keeps his focus even when things aren't going well," he added.

The two CNMI bets will start their campaign in the University Games via pool play, beginning on July 6 at the Kazanka Beach Volleyball Centre in Kazanka River Embankment. Pool play schedule is unavailable at press time, but there will be four groups composed of teams from Australia, Russia, Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, France, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Turkey, China, Oman, Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, United Arab

See CNMI on Page 26



From left, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Russ Quinn, and John Nekaifes pose for a photo before a training session last Saturday morning on the sand court of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Brazil beats Spain 3-0 to win Confederations Cup



RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—The crowd at Maracana Stadium was noisy, hoping for and maybe even anticipating a triumph by Brazil.

The Selecao rewarded the fans with a comprehensive victory over the best national team of the 21st century, an ego-boosting 3-0 smothering of world champion Spain in the Confederations Cup final on Sunday night.



The photo provided by FIFA shows Brazil's Neymar celebrating with his teammates after winning the Confederations Cup final between Brazil and Spain at Maracana stadium in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sunday, June 30, 2013.

Nice, yes.

But Brazil is focusing on the really big prize: the World Cup that it hosts next year.

"We know that the tournament that we will be playing next year will be a lot more difficult," Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said. "Now we have more confidence. That's what we needed."

In the stadium that will host the 2014 World Cup final next July 14, Fred put Brazil ahead in the second minute, Neymar doubled the lead in the 44th with his fourth goal of the tournament and Fred added his fifth in the 47th. While there was a crowd of 73,000 in the renovated stadium, outside protesters clashed with riot police on the final night of the two-week prep tournament.

"Brazil has shown to the world that this is the Brazilian national team and that we must be respected," said 21-year-old Neymar, awarded the Golden Ball as the tournament's top player. "I think that today we had a great victory against the best team of the world, with some of the best players in the world."

In a matchup of new and old powers, the five-time world champion defeated the reigning world and European champion and

See BRAZIL on Page 26

Tammy and Kimura lead Tsunami Saipan awardees



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Most valuable swimmers Miku Tammy, center, and Kensuke Kimura, right, pose with their trophies and are joined by Tsunami Saipan coach Kensuke Kimura for a group photo during the club's awards ceremony for the 2012-2013 season last month at PauPau Beach.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Miku Tammy and Kensuke Kimura were named co-most

valuable swimmers during the 2012-2013 season recognition ceremony of Tsunami Saipan Swimming Centre.

The two swimmers notched the most coveted individual

See TAMMY on Page 26